

# Groton Daily Independent

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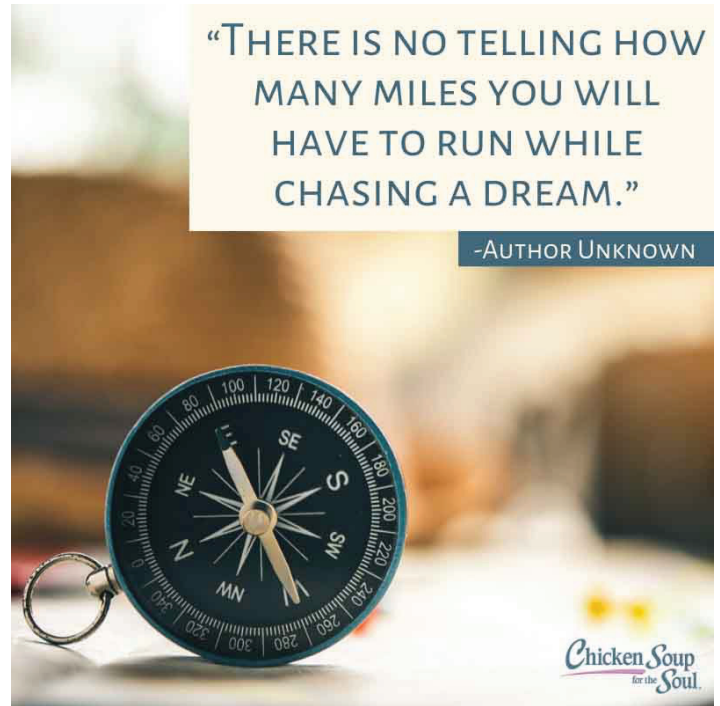
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## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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# Groton Daily Independent

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## The drought is over! Groton Area boys beat Aberdeen Roncalli

It seemed like on the football field, Groton Area and Aberdeen Roncalli were equally matched with Groton Area getting the upper hand in recent years. But when it came to the basketball court, Roncalli has dominated it for the past 15 years. But not this year.

After losing 39 straight games in a span of 15 years, Groton Area Head Coach Brian Dolan and the Groton Area Tigers finally broke the spell. The boys' basketball game was played in front of a packed Aberdeen Roncalli gym and the Tigers came home with a 61-53 win. "It's been a long time coming," Dolan said in an interview on GDILIVE.COM after the game. "We had a great crowd - it was awesome. I hope they keep coming out and supporting these kids at home."

Roncalli had the first basket and took a 3-0 lead. The Tigers tied the game at four and six before taking a 16-10 lead before Roncalli came back to tie the game at 16. The Tigers led after the first quarter, 18-16.

In the first quarter, Groton Area was seven of 16 in field goals for 44 percent and Roncalli was six of eight for 75 percent. Groton Area was three for five from the line and Roncalli was four for six from the line.

Groton Area opened up a nine-point lead in the second quarter at 29-20. The Cavaliers called time-out and then closed the gap to four at 29-25. Groton Area lead at half time, 32-27.

In the second quarter, Groton Area was four for 12 from the field for 33 percent and Roncalli was five of 11 for 45 percent. The Tigers were five for seven from the line and the Cavaliers were one for two.

Groton Area opened up a 13-point lead in the second quarter and held that lead at the end of the third quarter, 50-37. In the third quarter, Groton Area was six of 12 from the field for 50 percent and Roncalli was five of 10 for 50 percent. The Tigers made five of seven free throws and Roncalli did not attempt any free throws in the third quarter.

Roncalli battled back in the final quarter, closing the gap to seven at 53-46. The Tigers got back to a 13-point lead and ended up winning by eight, 61-52. In the fourth quarter, Groton Area was three of eight from the field for 38 percent and Roncalli was six of 10 for 60 percent. From the line, Groton Area was four out of seven and Roncalli was three of six from the line.

It proved to be the DeHoet-Imbery show as both players scored 32 points. "Imbery had an answer for everything we threw at him so we'll have to go back to the drawing board the second time we meet them later in the season," Dolan said. "DeHoet was the leader for us out there tonight. He did a lot of great things for us. I couldn't be happier for these kids. It was a team game and we won."

DeHoet had a double-double night with 32 points, 18 rebounds, two assists and three steals. Kaden Kurtz had 14 points, one rebound, one assist and two steals. Jonathan Doeden had nine points, three rebounds, three assists and two steals. Austin Jones had three points, four rebounds and three assists. Cade Guthmiller had three points, three assists and two steals. Tristan Traphagen had one rebound and one steal, Jayden Zak had two rebounds and two assists and Lane Tietz had one steal.

In two-pointers, Groton Area was 15 of 34 for 44 percent. From the perimeter, the Tigers were five of 14 for 36 percent. From the line, Groton Area was 16 of 31 for 52 percent off of Roncalli's 21 team fouls.

The Cavaliers were 22 of 39 from the field for 56 percent and were eight of 14 from the line for 57 percent off of Groton Area's 17 team fouls. The Cavaliers had 14 turnovers with 11 of them being steals. Groton Area had 11 turnovers.

"All the kids competed well," Dolan said. "It was a fun basketball game."

The boys will be at Northwestern on Monday and Dolan said, "We got bigger fish to fry with our upcoming games. The kids should be excited about this win, as they should be."

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center.

Groton Area made it a clean sweep, winning the junior varsity game, 45-20. Scoring for Groton Area: Jayden Zak 9, Tristan Traphagen 8, Chandler Larson 5, Cade Larson 4, Isaac Smith 3, Lane Tietz 2, Jackson Cogley 2, Jordan Bjerke 2, Tate Larson 2, Wyatt Hearnen 2.

Groton Area also won the C game, 48-27. Scoring for Groton Area: Tate Larson 19, Cole Simon 10, Wyatt Hearnen 5, Jackson Cogley 4, Jacob Zak 4, Jordan Bjerke 4, Cade Larson 1.

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## Democratic Leaders Column: Week 2

PIERRE, SD (Jan. 24, 2020) - Greetings from Pierre where this year's Legislative session is underway. It's always an honor and a privilege to be here working for the people of South Dakota. This year, Democrats continue to focus on issues that matter, and we look forward to working with our fellow legislators and the Governor on those issues whether we agree or don't agree.

We can all agree that the 0% increase in state employee salaries proposed by Governor Noem is unacceptable. Our teachers, community support providers and state employees deserve better. A bipartisan effort to find funding sources to follow the law on this matter is ongoing with hopes to reach a satisfactory resolution. We also continue to fight for early childhood education, better mental health care, and expanded drug treatment efforts that lead to recovery. This is also the year to add hemp to our agricultural products. Farmers, producers, and manufacturers in our state are ready, and our state needs policies in place to make it work.

What our state doesn't need is more negative national attention, but that is what happened this week with the introduction of HB 1057. This bill that would criminalize health care for vulnerable children disregards doctors, disrespects parents, and devalues children who need help. We will listen to South Dakota doctors and families on this issue and fight to defeat this bill. We hear you and we are hearing from many others who say this closed minded legislation does not mean South Dakota is "open for business."

To truly strengthen our business climate and our economy we are working on bills to enhance education from pre-K through college. Investing in early childhood education and needs based scholarships continues to be a priority for us. We are also working on finding resources to provide treatment and care to people in the grips of meth addiction. Meth is a budgetary line issue, not a corrections issue, and we need to use whatever tools we have available to us to dig people out from under it. For this reason among many others, we continue to talk about expanding Medicaid in South Dakota.

Building a better South Dakota for you and your family is why we are here. In the coming weeks, Democrats will file legislation laying out our priorities and sharing our vision: a South Dakota environment and economy where everyone can get ahead, and an open, accountable state government where all South Dakotans have a voice and a place at the table.

We want to hear from you! Please contact us to share your questions or concerns about the current Session. If you're in Pierre, you can always join us at one of our caucus meetings that are open to the public. Your voice matters.

Contact: Rep. Jamie Smith (605)339-3583 [jamie.smith@sdlegislature.gov](mailto:jamie.smith@sdlegislature.gov)

###

Senate Democratic Leader Senator Troy Heinert (D-Mission)  
House Democratic Leader Representative Jamie Smith (D-Sioux Falls)

## Prepare NOW for Spring flooding A Citizen's Guide

Flooding is the nation's most common natural disaster. Flooding can happen in every U.S. state and territory. However, all floods are not alike. Some can develop slowly during an extended period of rain, or in a warming trend following a heavy snow. Others, such as flash floods, can occur quickly, even without any visible signs of rain. Be prepared for flooding no matter where you live, but particularly if you are in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam. Even a very small stream or dry creek bed can overflow and create flooding.

The following is a checklist of items for you to complete to be flood prepared and safe:

- ➔ Know the types of flood risk in your area. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center to determine if your home is in a flood zone, <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>.
- ➔ Flooding can occur anywhere, even if not located in a flood zone. Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy. It takes 30 days for a policy to go into effect and can protect the life you have built. Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding. Talk to your insurance provider to get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- ➔ Some communities have a community warning system. Sign up for alerts, <https://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/>.
- ➔ Download a weather app on your smartphone to give you alerts on impending weather. The "Emergency" app from the Red Cross allows you to customize your alert settings.
- ➔ Purchase a weather radio. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio provide emergency alerts.
- ➔ If flash flooding is a risk in your location, then monitor potential signs, such as heavy rain.
- ➔ Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and meet up location for a flash flood response. Ask someone out of state to be your "family contact" in an emergency and make sure all family members know the contacts address and phone number.
- ➔ Make sure basements are waterproofed and your sump pump is working. Then, install a battery-operated backup in case of power failure.
- ➔ Installing a water alarm will also let you know if water is accumulating in your basement.
- ➔ Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel in your home if you live in an area that has a high flood risk.
- ➔ Clear debris from gutters and downspouts to ensure water flows away from the foundation.
- ➔ Install check valves in floor drains. Unbolt toilets from the floor and plug the drain pipe. Plug shower drains and washing machine drains to prevent backup.
- ➔ Anchor any fuel or propane tanks.
- ➔ If feasible, construct barriers to stop floodwater from entering the building and seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds.
- ➔ Move furniture and valuables to a safe place or higher levels in your home.
- ➔ Store copies of irreplaceable documents (such as birth certificates, passports, etc.) in a safe, dry place and waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies. Keep originals in a safe deposit box.
- ➔ Build an emergency supply kit. Food, bottled water, first aid supplies, medicines and a battery-operated radio should be ready to go when you are. Visit <https://www.ready.gov/> for a complete disaster supply checklist. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication.
- ➔ Don't forget the needs of pets. Many shelters do not accept pets, so make plans now on what to do with your pets if you have to evacuate your residence.
- ➔ Obtain extra batteries and charging devices for phones and other critical equipment.
- ➔ During a flooding event, do not walk through moving water, if possible. Look for areas where the water is not moving. What might seem like a small amount of moving water can easily knock you down.

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- During a flood, do not drive into flooded areas. If your vehicle becomes surrounded by rising water, get out quickly and move to higher ground, if possible.
- During a flood, stay away from downed power lines to avoid the risk of electric shock or electrocution.
- After a flood, do not return to your home until local authorities say it is safe. Even after flood waters recede, roads may be weakened and could collapse. Buildings may be unstable and drinking water may be contaminated.

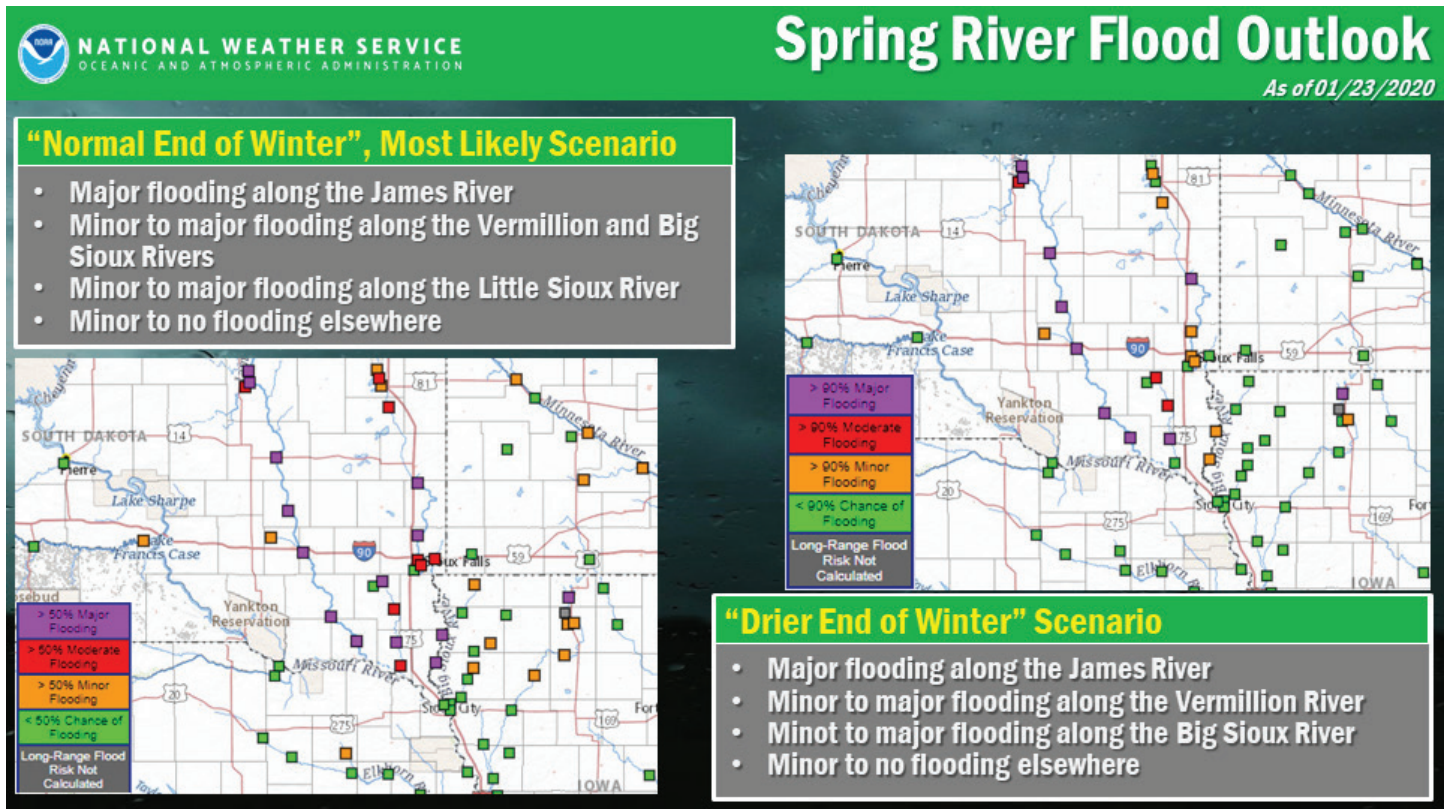
Additional resources:

<https://dps.sd.gov/emergency-services/emergency-management>

[www.twitter.com/sdpublicsafety](http://www.twitter.com/sdpublicsafety)

[www.facebook.com/sdemergencymgmt](http://www.facebook.com/sdemergencymgmt)

[www.twitter.com/sdemergencymgmt](http://www.twitter.com/sdemergencymgmt)



Published on: 01/24/2020 at 4:55AM

## State maps added to South Dakota Digital Archives

PIERRE, S.D. -- The South Dakota State Historical Society-State Archives has added nearly 700 digitized maps and made them accessible online in the South Dakota Digital Archives thanks to an Outside of Deadwood grant from the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission.

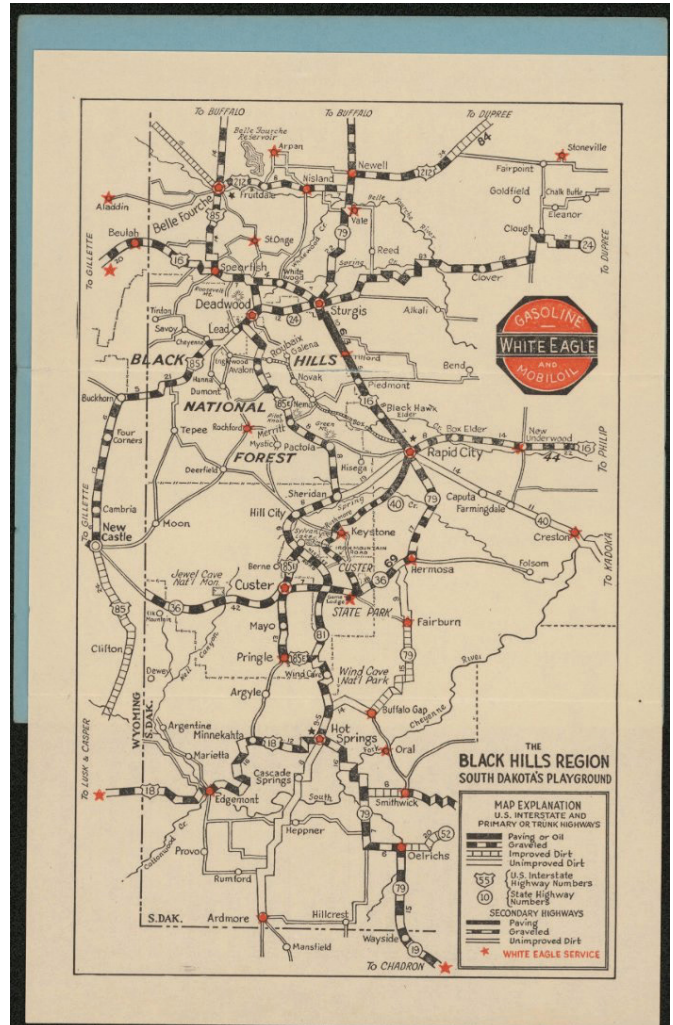
Six hundred ninety-eight maps were digitized, cataloged and placed online as part of this grant. The images are available at <https://sddigitalarchives.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/>

The digitized maps include tourist maps, such as maps of snowmobile trails and maps of caves, maps of the Custer National Forest and the former Harney National Forest, as well as city plans of Sturgis, Custer and Rapid City. Maps of various South Dakota dams, American Indian reservations, highway maps and a few aerial photomaps were also included.

"The maps are from the archives' collections and are very popular with students, teachers, researchers, authors, newspaper editors and general history buffs," said Chelle (SHEL-ee) Somsen, state archivist. "Now these maps are available to researchers worldwide and not just to those who can visit the archives in person."

The South Dakota Digital Archives contains 80,589 items from the State Archives including photographic images, government and manuscript collections, land survey records, the South Dakota Historical Society publication "The Wi-Iyohi" and 1,289 maps.

For more information, contact the State Historical Society-Archives at 605-773-3804. State Archives hours at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CST Monday-Friday and the first Saturday of most months.



**This undated map of the Black Hills Region is one of hundreds now available online from the South Dakota State Historical Society-State Archives.** (Photo courtesy

South Dakota State Historical Society-State Archives)



## January Students of the Month

From back left: Brenna Carda (9th), KaSandra Pappas (12th), Alex Morris (11th), Trista Keith (10th)  
From front Left: Kellen Antonsen (7th), Ava Wienk (8th), Natalia Warrington (6th)

Groton Area MS/HS School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.

It is learning with our heads, hearts and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals.

Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.

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## 2020 South Dakota Pest Management Guides Released

BROOKINGS, S.D. - The 2020 South Dakota Pest Management Guides are now available for free on the SDSU Extension website. The guides provide recommendations for controlling weeds, insects and diseases.

Pest Management Guides Include:

Alfalfa & Oilseeds (alfalfa, canola, flax, safflower, and sunflowers) (<https://extension.sdstate.edu/sites/default/files/2020-01/P-00008.pdf>)

Corn (<https://extension.sdstate.edu/sites/default/files/2020-01/P-00009.pdf>)

Soybeans (<https://extension.sdstate.edu/sites/default/files/2020-01/P-00010.pdf>)

Wheat (including barley, rye, oats, durum, millet and triticale) (<https://extension.sdstate.edu/sites/default/files/2020-01/P-00011.pdf>)

These guides have been completely updated for 2020. There are several new products that have new names and corresponding changes have been made to the labels such as rates for the chemicals, rotation restrictions, additive rates and products.

The guides are available for download at <https://extension.sdstate.edu/south-dakota-pest-management-guides>.

The guides are provided free of charge through SDSU Extension thanks to funding from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station at SDSU and the South Dakota Soybean Checkoff.

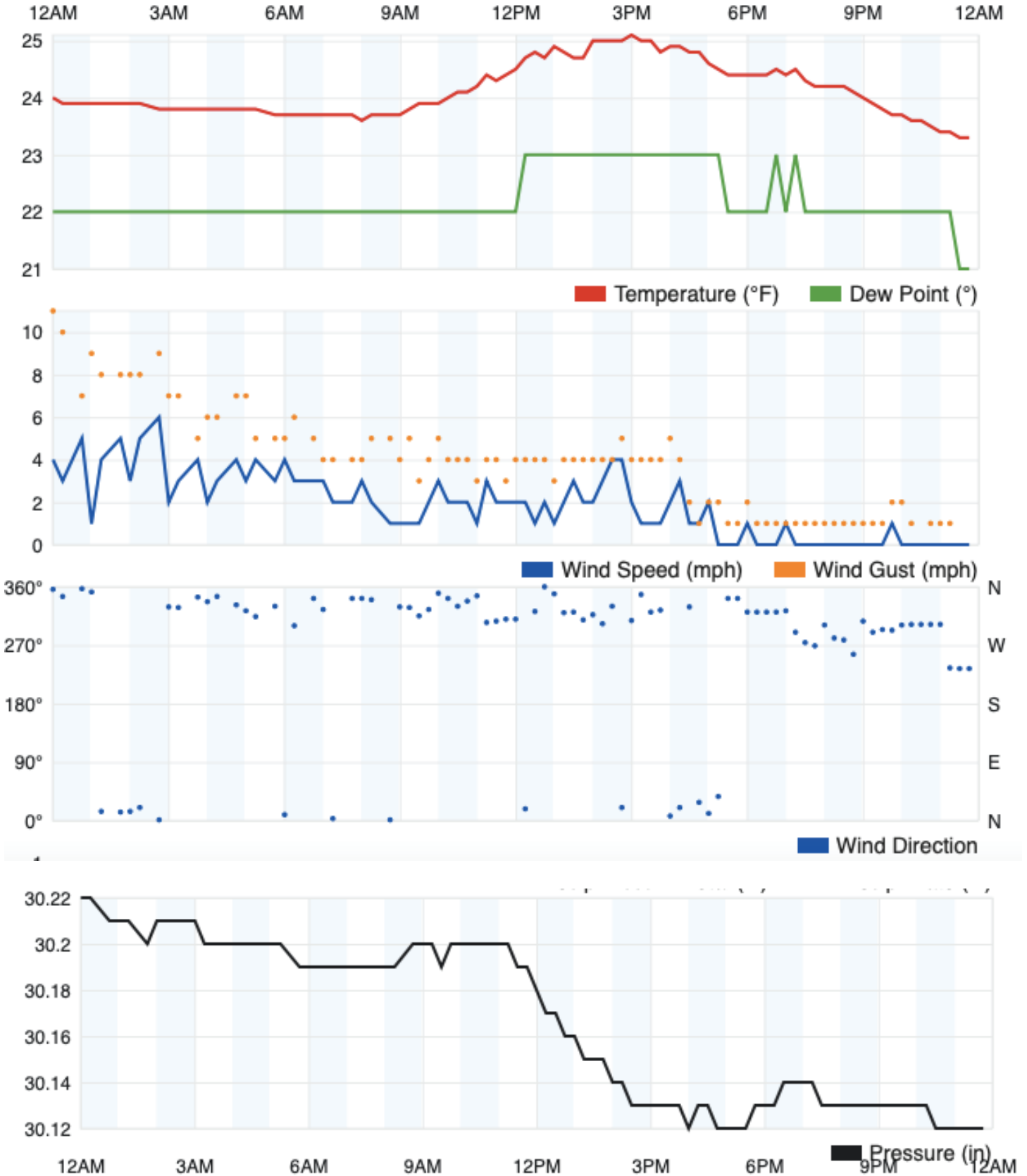
For more information contact Philip Rozeboom, SDSU Extension IPM Coordinator, at [philip.rozeboom@sdstate.edu](mailto:philip.rozeboom@sdstate.edu) or at 605.688.4377



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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## Upcoming Events

### **Saturday, January 25, 2020**

Speech Fiesta Debate at Watertown High School

Robotics at GHS Gymnasium

10:00am: Boys Junior High Jamboree at GHS (rescheduled from 1-18-20)

10:00am: Wrestling Tournament at Arlington

### **Sunday, January 26, 2020**

Carnival of Silver Skates at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

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

2:00-4:00 PM Grades JK-8 (Students must be accompanied by an adult) 4:00-6:00 PM Grades 6-12

### **Monday, January 27, 2020**

Boys Basketball at Northwestern (combined junior high game at 4 p.m., Junior Varsity game at 6:30 p.m. followed by the varsity game)

6:00pm: Junior High Wrestling Tournament at Redfield

### **Tuesday, January 28, 2020**

6:30pm: Girls' Basketball at Clark/Willow Lake (at Clark School)

### **Thursday, January 30, 2020**

4:00pm: Northeast Conference Wrestling at Britton-Hecla School

### **Friday, January 31, 2020**

Lewis and Clark Debate at Yankton High School

Boys Basketball hosts Clark/Willow Lake. (Combined Junior High Game at 5:15 p.m., followed by Junior Varsity game at 6:30 p.m. and then the varsity game.)

**GUN SHOW: Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association 18th Annual ABERDEEN Gun Show. Saturday, February 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, February 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dakota Event Center on LaMont East. Terry Ennen 701-391-2416.**

## 82nd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

Sunday, January 26th—2:00 and 6:30  
Groton Ice Rink—West Side of Groton

Dreams...both the kind you have when you're asleep  
AND when you're awake... This show will entertain  
through music, costumes and skating talent.  
Join us for a *great show* performed by our *local  
youth* that will inspire you to *DREAM!*

Admission: 13 & older—\$3.00  
6-12—\$2.00

Parking: Provided around the  
rink and on the ice  
or cozy up on the bleachers  
(ice parking begins at 10 am,  
then again at 4:30 pm)


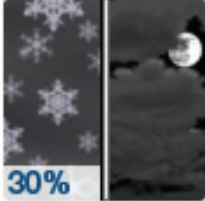


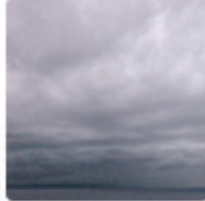
\*\*Check us out on Facebook  
at "Silver Skates"

WE HOPE TO  
SEE YOU THERE!



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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
				
Chance Snow/Sleet and Dense Freezing Fog	Chance Snow then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
<b>High: 25 °F</b>	<b>Low: 21 °F</b>	<b>High: 33 °F</b>	<b>Low: 21 °F</b>	<b>High: 28 °F</b>



## Gradual Improvements Today, Relatively Mild

### *This Morning*

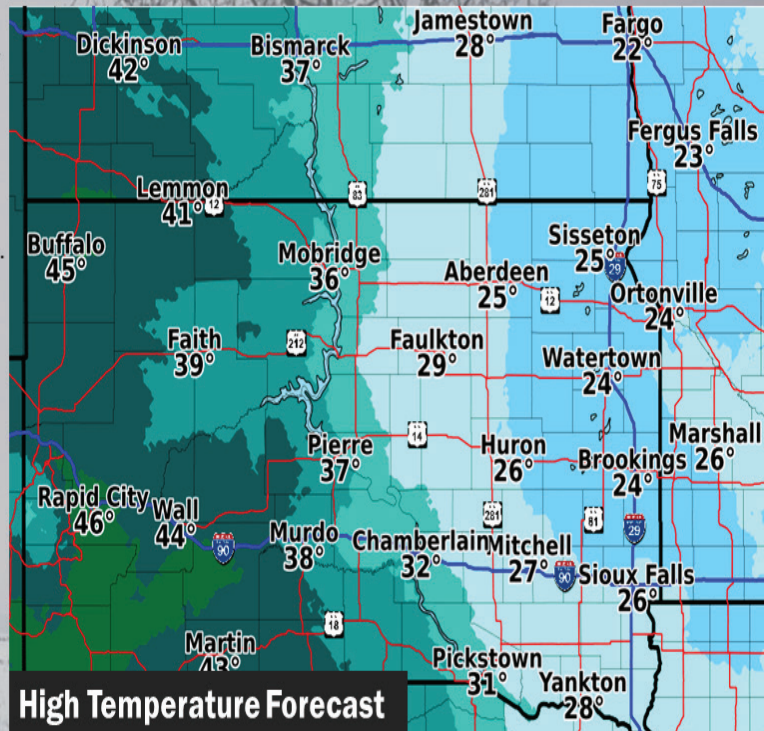
Overcast skies with areas of fog. Some locally dense with visibility below one half mile or less at times.

### *This Afternoon*

Cloudy skies with fog slowly dissipating. **Light wintry mix** developing by late afternoon.

### *This Evening/Tonight*

Mostly cloudy skies, partial clearing West River. **Light wintry mix** across James Valley and East.



NWS Aberdeen, SD  
Updated: 1/25/2020 5:52 AM Central

**High Temperature Forecast**

Foggy conditions will continue through the morning hours before slow improvements are seen through the afternoon. Some fog this morning could be locally dense. Mostly cloudy skies will remain for most locales into tonight. A clipper like system will bring a chance for a light wintry mix to portions of the area late this afternoon into tonight. Temperatures will begin a slow warmup today with more widespread mild conditions expected on Sunday.

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## Today in Weather History

January 25, 2010: A large upper level low pressure area combined with a cold surface high-pressure area building in from the north brought light snow and very strong winds creating widespread blizzard conditions across north central and northeast South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 1 to 4 inches combined with north winds of 25 to 40 mph gusting up to 55 mph created frequent whiteout conditions across the area. Travel was significantly affected or halted, and several schools were closed. Interstate-29 was closed from the North Dakota border and south on the 25th until the morning of the 26th. The blizzard hampered efforts to restore power to the thousands of customers from the previous winter storm. The snowfall began in the morning hours from 6 to 10 am and ended around the time the blizzard conditions subsided.

1821: The Hudson River was frozen solid in the midst of the coldest winter in forty-one years. Thousands of persons crossed the ice from New York City to New Jersey, and refreshment taverns were set up in the middle of the river to warm pedestrians.

1937: Las Vegas, Nevada dropped to 8 degrees above zero, setting an all-time record low for the city.

1949: Las Vegas, Nevada recorded 4.7 inches of snow. This brought the monthly snowfall total to 16.7 inches which still ranks as their snowiest month on record.

1821 - The Hudson River was frozen solid during the midst of the coldest winter in forty-one years. Thousands of persons crossed the ice from New York City to New Jersey, and refreshment taverns were set up in the middle of the river to warm pedestrians. (David Ludlum)

1837 - At 7 PM a display of the Northern Lights danced above Burlington, VT. Its light was equal to the full moon. Snow and other objects reflecting the light were deeply tinged with a blood red hue. Blue, yellow and white streamers were also noted. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - Alta, UT, was in the midst of a storm that left the town buried under 105 inches of snow establishing a record for the state. (David Ludlum)

1987 - The second major storm in three days hit the Eastern Seaboard producing up to 15 inches of snow in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. Up to 30 inches of snow covered the ground in Virginia following the two storms. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - High winds created blizzard conditions in the mountains of Colorado. Winds gusted to 109 mph at Echo Lake, and a wind gust to 193 mph was reported atop Mount Evans. A "nor'easter" moving up the Atlantic Coast spread heavy snow from the Carolinas to New England, with as much as 16 inches reported in the Poconos of eastern Pennsylvania. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Bitter cold air, coming down from Alaska, settled over the Northern Rockies. Wilson WY reported a morning low of 48 degrees below zero. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the south central U.S. One thunderstorm in north central Texas spawned a tornado which injured three persons at Troy. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Low pressure developed explosively over east central Missouri and moved into Lower Michigan producing high winds and heavy snow across parts of Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. Wind gusts to 60 mph and up to a foot of snow created near blizzard conditions in southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Wind gusts in Indiana reached 76 mph at Wabash. Thunderstorms associated with the storm produced wind gusts to 54 mph at Fort Madison IA. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2000 - Heavy snow fell from the Carolinas to New England, with up to 20 inches of snow and five deaths reported. (NCDC)

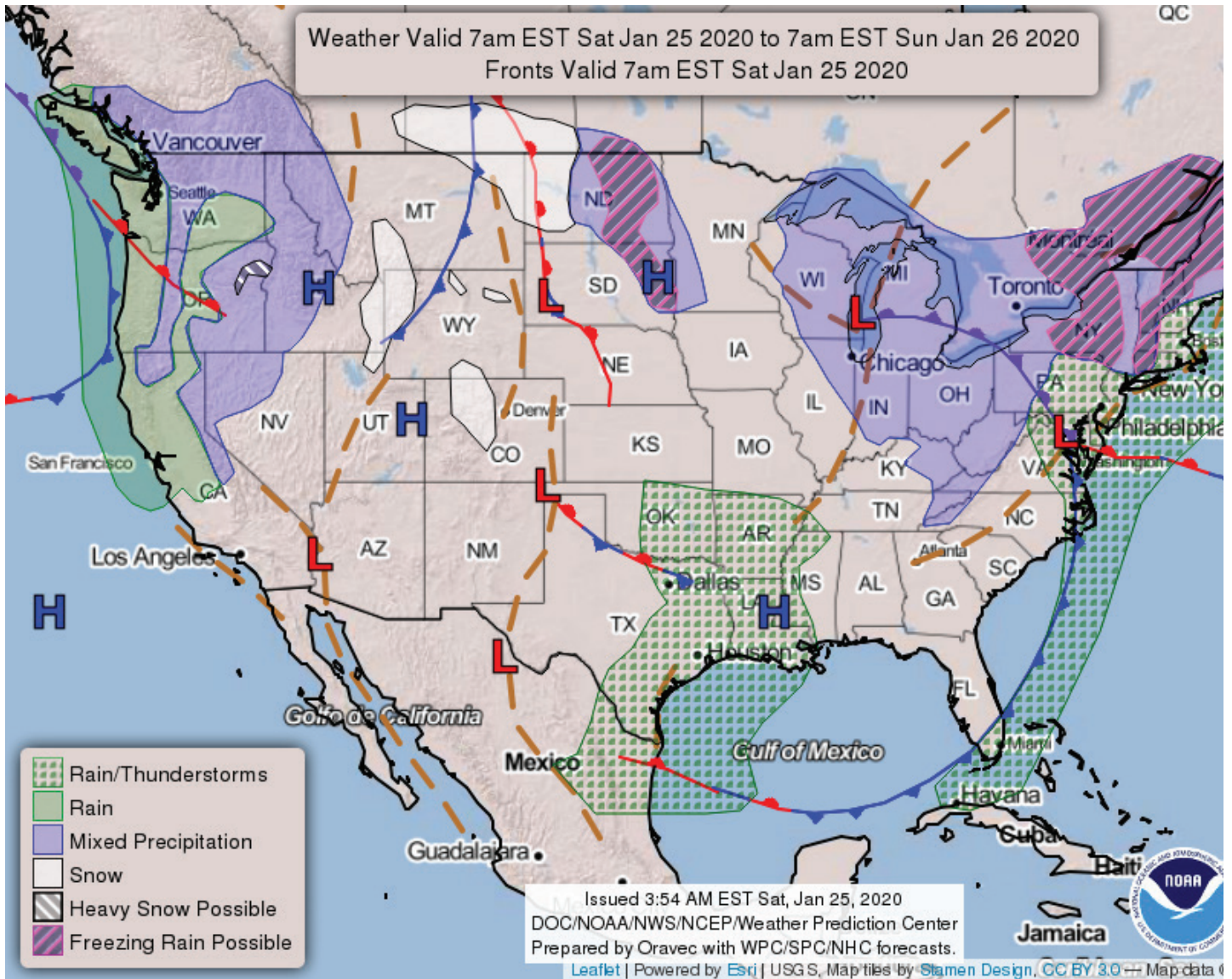
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 25 °F at 3:02 PM**  
**Low Temp: 23 °F at 11:03 PM**  
**Wind: 10 mph at 12:02 AM**  
**Snow**

**Record High: 54° in 1942**  
**Record Low: -33° in 1904**  
**Average High: 23°F**  
**Average Low: 2°F**  
**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.38**  
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.35**  
**Average Precip to date: 0.38**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.35**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:30 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:02 a.m.**



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## UNEXPECTED REWARDS

He began playing the cello at an early age, and by the time he was eighteen, he enjoyed playing in a small European orchestra. Unfortunately, he became nearsighted and as a result, had to memorize his part and the parts of all of the other instruments if he was to play with the orchestra. Fortunately, he became very skilled at memorization.

One day the orchestra was to play before a large audience. Moments before the performance was to begin, the leader became ill. Arturo Toscanini, the cellist, was called upon to lead the orchestra because he was the only person who knew all of the parts of the other musicians. His performance was flawless, and the critics praised his skills. Other opportunities became available to him, and he went on to become a world-famous conductor. What may have defeated others became a successful career for him. He turned his loss into a victory!

God has great plans for each of us. He sees and knows every obstacle we might ever encounter from the day we are born until the day our lives end. His part is to bring all "things" together; our part is to work with Him to achieve the "good" that He has in store for us.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to believe that You have great plans for each of us. May we never accept defeat, but take each of Your gifts and use them for Your glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Sharp (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/26/2020 Father/Daughter dance.
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 06/19/2020 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)  
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 07/31-08/04/2020 State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/14/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)



## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Friday:

Mega Millions

03-04-18-23-38, Mega Ball: 24, Megaplier: 4

(three, four, eighteen, twenty-three, thirty-eight; Mega Ball: twenty-four; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$130 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$373 million

### Pine Ridge's Tokata Iron Eyes turns superhero in Marvel show

By TANYA MANUS Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Marvel's Hero Project is out to prove that superheroes live among us. One of those superheroes is activist, public speaker and high school student Tokata Iron Eyes of Pine Ridge.

Tokata, 16, is featured in a recent streaming episode of Marvel's Hero Project. Her superhero moniker is "Thrilling Tokata." The show is available exclusively on Disney+. Marvel Entertainment, the powerhouse behind superhero movies and comics, launched this new non-scripted reality series to showcase ordinary kids accomplishing extraordinary things.

"It's a very surreal thing. Disney is a huge media outlet and there's not a lot of representation for indigenous communities anywhere. It's such a profound honor," Tokata told the Rapid City Journal. "It shows progress in a special way. We deserve to be the heroes of our own stories again."

Marvel's Hero Project highlights 20 kids ages 11 to 16. Some are overcoming disabilities. Some, like Tokata, are activists. Some see problems around them and find creative solutions, such as growing an urban garden to feed the hungry. In every episode, Marvel surprises these young heroes who dedicated themselves to performing selfless acts of bravery, kindness and betterment by welcoming them into Marvel's Hero Project.

"These kids are really special, and totally typical. They're all regular kids who decided to do something and are passionate about something, and that's all it takes," said John Hirsch, executive producer for the series. "With the encouragement of their families and love of their families ... these kids are changing the world. It's awesome, awesome, awesome to see."

Tokata is included in Marvel's Hero Project to empower indigenous youth. Last fall, Tokata gained international attention when she invited Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg to western South Dakota. The teens appeared together at a climate rally and march in Rapid City, at Standing Rock High School in North Dakota and on the Pine Ridge Reservation, speaking about climate change and the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

Tokata's environmental activism began years earlier. Tokata was 12 when she spoke in a video, advocating for action in Standing Rock Sioux Nation's battle against the proposed route of the Dakota Access oil pipeline. The video helped start the "Respect Our Water" social media campaign, which played a role in attracting thousands of national and international visitors to Standing Rock to fight the pipeline.

"For me, public speaking was an accessible way ... to stand up for myself and our people and our rights," Tokata said. "In general, I would consider myself a representative of indigenous youth. I feel like our perspective needs to be included in conversations. For a really long time, we didn't have any say."

"I think the real message (of my episode) is really indigenous people and young people's stories are so important and they need to be told. They are so instrumental to building a world everybody would want to live in," she said.

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Tokata continues to hold rallies, host letter-writing campaigns and make videos to raise awareness. Her goal is to inspire and empower other indigenous youths to be heard. Yet she's also a junior at Red Cloud Indian School, and she's thinking about college and tentatively planning a career in which she continues public speaking.

Filming for Tokata's Marvel's Hero Project started in January 2019. It continued for six months, mostly on the Pine Ridge Reservation, at Tokata's home and school, in the community and at some of Tokata's speaking engagements.

Each episode ends with a reveal, as Marvel surprises the kids with their very own comic book in which each kid is immortalized as a superhero. Tokata's comic book will be available for free starting Jan. 17 in Marvel Unlimited and the Marvel Digital Comics Store. The online comic book has an audio description option for visually impaired users.

Tokata received physical copies of the comic book she can share with friends. Later, she was presented with a framed copy of her comic book cover, Hirsch said.

"Some of the best editors in Marvel are working on the show. With Tokata's comic ... we were really careful in creating a comic book using one of her favorite stories and incorporating that into her comic book," Hirsch said. "She appreciated it and her family appreciated it."

In December, Hirsch traveled to Pine Ridge to show the episode to Tokata and her family. Her father is Chase Iron Eyes, a Native American activist, attorney, politician and a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Her mother, Dr. Sara Jumping Eagle, is an Oglala Lakota. She's a pediatrician at Standing Rock, and an environmental activist.

"It was cool," Hirsch said. "Her family appreciated it and thought it was done in the right way, and that to us as producers was the most meaningful thing of all. ... I think she knows the episode could be a big deal for her community and that's what it's all about for her."

"When we got to see the episode for the very first time, it was very beautiful in the way it merged these two worlds I've been living in of being a spokesperson and being a kid," Tokata said. "It's show a true portrait of who I am and what life looks like."

Tokata believes her episode highlights the resiliency of indigenous people and the value of young people's ideas.

"That trauma and those deep hurts weren't very long ago. Those were our grandmas and great-grandparents. To recognize the strength of these communities is imperative," Tokata said.

"One thing that should always be said ... is we need to start listening to our children in all capacities. We're at a stage in this world where we need everyone's voices and stories listened to. We need to really start recognizing each other on a very human basis ... if we're going to create real change together," Tokata said. "Being able to recognize the power children have in their dreams and the ability to care and be compassionate, those are skills the adult world is often lacking."

## South Dakota winter 5K raises money to provide Labs for vets

By JACQUE NILES Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A plan hatched between friends over a couple of beers doesn't always produce sane results.

Take, for instance, an idea for a 5-kilometer race in the rural South Dakota town of Tolstoy, population 38. In the middle of winter.

On the surface, it's about as fundamentally sound as a lead balloon.

But this — the brainchild of Katie Nold of Onaka, Joann Rader of Hoven and Jenn McCloud of Brookings — is about more than bucking the South Dakota windchill. It is, quite literally, saving lives.

The Tolstoy Wind Chiller 5K, run every January since 2015, has raised more than \$10,000 in its short-lived history. While this year's event was canceled thanks to blizzard-level conditions and no-travel advisories across the eastern half of the state, all of the money from the annual event has gone to benefit Labs For Liberty, a nonprofit entity that provides fully trained service dogs to military veterans.

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For free.

To date, Labs for Liberty has raised, trained and donated nearly 100 dogs to veterans across the country. Chris Campbell is one of those veterans, and said he owes his life, literally and figuratively, to the program, the Aberdeen American News reported. A Marine veteran, Campbell was severely injured just before a big deployment, resulting in a broken back and a few other structural injuries. Doctors gave him the option of continuing with his deployment or treating the injuries right away. Treating the injuries would have meant giving up the Marines. Campbell, who lives in Ohio, chose to deploy.

He returned home, broken physically and in severe mental and physical pain. He was med-boarded and forced to retire from the Marines. It was, he said, like being stripped of an identity.

"It put me into a down-spin," Campbell said. "It's a total darkness because all I wanted to do was be a Marine. The guys have essentially become your family and become your tribe. You eat, sleep, bleed, cry, you do everything together with these guys. Their family becomes your family. Their kids become your nieces and nephews and your kids become their nieces and nephews. And now, like that, it's all gone."

For a while, opioids helped the physical pain, though after three years of constant use, they were more to keep withdrawal symptoms at bay. But nothing touched the post-traumatic stress disorder.

Campbell recalled a trip to the store with his daughter when an anxiety attack nearly felled him.

"We're at the grocery store, just her and I, and all of a sudden I start having an anxiety attack or PTSD attack," Campbell said. "I'd never truly had a full-fledged one for sure. Like, I can't catch my breath. Everything is closing in and getting foggy, and I'm just freaking out. I pulled the cart over to the side and I put my head down on the bar of the cart and close my eyes and I'm focusing on my breathing. My daughter, who's sitting in the cart, starts rubbing my head. She goes, 'Hey, I've got you. Twyla is your protector. I've got you, Daddy.' I just start weeping. Just weeping. And I was like, 'OK, enough is enough. Something's got to give.'"

Enter Labs for Liberty.

Campbell had already been approved for the program and paired with a dog, whom he named Gracie.

"She was going to be our saving grace," Campbell said. "We end up losing our daughter, three weeks before my wife's due date, and so it's just like one thing after another just bang, bang, bang, bang. Could life get any more dark right now?"

It could.

Just before that day in the grocery store, Campbell learned that Gracie had failed out of the Labs for Liberty program. She just wasn't confident enough to continue. After nearly a year of waiting, Campbell was back at square one.

But then, a light.

Jake Tschirhart lives in Utah, but had gotten to know the Nold family through Labs for Liberty. After getting out of the Marines, Tschirhart found himself needing direction. The Marines had always provided one for him, and, though he never deployed, he felt the void.

"I think Labs for Liberty gave me that mission back," Tschirhart said. "And I got to do something that I never really got to do when I was in the Marines. I got to really, really help other people that have been through some really, really hard times. So I think that it's given me a whole new purpose, and seeing how much it's helped Chris and our other friend James, you know, it's changed their lives. It really does give me so much joy and fulfillment."

Tschirhart was paired up with a dog, Brody, but joined up with the Air Force and needed to do some training for his new position. Then he heard of Campbell's situation and had an idea. What if Campbell took Brody while Tschirhart trained Campbell's new dog, Bodhi?

Tschirhart called Campbell. It was a phone call that changed everything.

"I met Jake and I was just like, wow, like this guy is truly just the definition of selfless and humble," Campbell said. "We just clicked right away and me and Brody clicked right away, and now I have the most normality in my life thanks to Brody, for the first time in 10 years. I couldn't sleep. I would have night terrors every night. I couldn't even go to the grocery store. I went from that to literally not being stressed

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out ever. It's like I've gotten my one of my teammates back. And I've got a massive family. I have my tribe and that tribe is Labs for Liberty."

In the six months since Brody joined Campbell and his family in Cincinnati, life has changed drastically. Campbell found the strength to quit opioids, cold turkey, throwing them in the toilet the night before his wife discovered she was pregnant. For two weeks, Campbell endured withdrawal — nausea, sleepless nights, anxiety.

"Basically for two weeks I was contemplating suicide, but not at the same time, because I knew what it was," he said. "I knew I've just got to get to the next day, I've just got to get to the next day, I've just got to get to the next day. It was one of the most hopeless situations because it seemed like it was never going to go away."

Through it all, there was Brody, faithfully by Campbell's side, enduring with him, reminding him that there was a next day.

Now, Campbell is off all medications, against his doctors' wishes. He left the house again. He goes to the grocery store. He took his family on vacation. He and Brody traveled together, flying to South Dakota in a snowstorm. Brody, in addition to pulling Campbell back from anxiety attacks, acts as a stabilizer when Campbell needs one. He picks things up when they're just too much or too far to reach. He tends to Campbell's wife, too, when grief crashes in, as it inevitably does.

Campbell and his wife are expecting a baby boy this spring, and he has enrolled in school with the intent to become a teacher. He and Bodhi will be reunited when Bodhi's training is complete, though when that is is a bit uncertain since each dog's training is custom-tailored to the individual.

Until then, he has Brody. He has normalcy. He has hope.

"I'm free," Campbell said. "I'm free. The shackles are gone."

## Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 68, Tea Area 64  
Belle Fourche 55, Hot Springs 21  
Britton-Hecla 48, Warner 38  
Canton 58, Beresford 57  
Castlewood 54, Langford 46  
Clark/Willow Lake 59, Webster 52  
Crazy Horse 55, Takini 51  
Dakota Valley 76, Tri-Valley 56  
Flandreau Indian 51, Lower Brule 42  
Gayville-Volin 69, Colome 39  
Hamlin 53, Milbank 43  
Herreid/Selby Area 78, North Central Co-Op 37  
Iroquois 59, Great Plains Lutheran 51  
Lennox 54, Platte-Geddes 39  
McCook Central/Montrose 55, Flandreau 42  
Northwestern 59, Leola/Frederick 45  
Redfield 61, Sisseton 50  
Richland, N.D. 65, Tri-State 39  
Sioux Falls Christian 79, Madison 69  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 51, Rapid City Central 31  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 72, Rapid City Stevens 53  
Sioux Falls Washington 69, Harrisburg 51  
Vermillion 65, Garretson 33

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Viborg-Hurley 82, Baltic 60  
Watertown 66, Mitchell 64, OT  
Waverly-South Shore 47, Wilmot 44

## **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Beresford 54, Canton 21  
Centerville 41, Tiospa Zina Tribal 39  
Dakota Valley 50, Tri-Valley 47  
Flandreau 68, McCook Central/Montrose 61  
Great Plains Lutheran 62, Iroquois 42  
Hamlin 62, Milbank 18  
Hanson 45, Canistota 37  
Jones County 58, Sunshine Bible Academy 15  
Lennox 78, Platte-Geddes 29  
Lower Brule 51, Flandreau Indian 46  
Lyman 68, Kadoka Area 45  
Madison 54, Sioux Falls Christian 41  
Menno 50, Freeman 38  
Mitchell 62, Watertown 54  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 51, Kimball/White Lake 36  
Northwestern 55, Leola/Frederick 13  
Rapid City Stevens 45, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 27  
Redfield 48, Sisseton 39  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 45, Rapid City Central 25  
Sioux Valley 67, Dell Rapids 34  
Spearfish 50, Sturgis Brown 45  
St. Thomas More 57, West Central 48  
Tea Area 55, Aberdeen Central 49  
Vermillion 54, Garretson 44  
Viborg-Hurley 58, Baltic 51  
Warner 47, Britton-Hecla 17  
Wilmot 51, Wyndmere-Lidgerwood, N.D. 32  
DVC Tournament=  
Consolation Semifinal=  
Estelline/Hendricks 47, Elkton-Lake Benton 17  
Lake Preston 49, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 38  
Semifinal=  
Colman-Egan 54, Dell Rapids St. Mary 32  
Deubrook 50, Arlington 36  
Little Moreau Conference Tournament=  
Bison 51, Tiospaye Topa 11  
Dupree 59, Lemmon 39  
Faith 59, Timber Lake 30  
Harding County 68, McIntosh 22

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

## No. 24 South Dakota women roll to 79-25 victory

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Ciara Duffy had 13 points with seven assists in a balanced South Dakota offense and the No. 24 Coyotes rolled past Purdue Fort Wayne 79-25 on Friday night for their seventh straight victory.

The Coyotes (18-2, 7-0) had won their previous six Summit League games by an average of nearly 35 points and easily bested Friday against the Mastodons (4-15, 0-6), who shot only 21%, missed all 16 of their 3-point attempts, gave up 31 points off 25 turnovers and didn't have an individual score more than six points.

Hannah Sjerven added 12 points and a game-high seven rebounds, Chloe Lamb scored 11 points and Monica Arens 10 for South Dakota. Ten of the 12 Coyotes who played scored. South Dakota had 10 blocks and 19 steals.

A 23-0 run in the first quarter quickly settled matters with the Mastodons outscored 27-4 in the period. It was 52-10 at halftime.

South Dakota swept the season series, beating the Mastodons 62-41 on Jan. 1.

More AP women's basketball: <https://apnews.com/Womenscollegebasketball> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## Gov. Noem voices 'concerns' about transgender treatment bill

By **STEPHEN GROVES** Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem says she has "concerns" about a bill in the House that would make it illegal for physicians to administer gender-change treatments to children under 16. But she declined Friday to offer full support or disapproval.

The bill would allow for physicians who perform surgeries, administer hormone therapy or prescribe puberty-blocking medication to minors to be prosecuted with a misdemeanor. The Republican-dominated House will debate the bill next week.

"When you take public policy and try to fill parenting gaps with more government, you have to be very careful about the precedent you're setting," Noem told reporters.

Democrats and LGBT activists say the bill targets transgender children and could lead to an increase in suicides. Supporters, including many Republicans in the House, say the bill would prevent children from receiving ideologically motivated treatment that harms them.

Sanford Health, one of the largest medical providers in the state, has said it treated fewer than 20 minors seeking treatment for gender dysphoria last year, according to Mitch Rave, a lobbyist for the business.

Leading medical authorities, including the Endocrine Society and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, do not recommend gender-change surgeries for minors. For youths experiencing puberty and older adolescents, the Endocrine Society recommends that a team composed of expert medical and mental health professionals manages treatment, which can include puberty-blocking drugs or hormone therapy.

Business groups have also clashed with social conservatives over the legislation. The South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry said policies that discriminate against LGBT people dissuade businesses from investing in the state.

"There will be blowback," said House Minority Leader Jamie Smith, a Sioux Falls Democrat. "We'll be labeled as a state that is not welcoming and is not inclusive."

Noem has made economic growth a priority for her administration this year and said she will "aggressively" recruit businesses to relocate to the state.

House Majority Leader Lee Qualm, of Platte, is a co-sponsor of the bill. Qualm claimed North Carolina experienced economic growth after passing a "bathroom bill" barring transgender people from using public bathrooms that don't correspond with the sex on their birth certificates. North Carolina's legislature rolled back the law a year after it was passed.

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An Associated Press analysis found that the state could have lost more than \$3.76 billion over a dozen years after losing out on business projects, conventions and sports tournaments.

Qualm said executives he has spoken to don't object to the bill, but that he expects it to be a close vote in the House.

Former Gov. Dennis Daugaard vetoed a bathroom bill introduced in the South Dakota legislature in 2016. Noem said in 2018 during her campaign for governor that she would have signed the bill.

The American Civil Liberties Union on Thursday threatened to mount a legal challenge to the ban if it became law.

When asked about the legal threats to the proposed law, Noem said it was something she would consider.

## Man shot by agent is charged with assaulting federal officer

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man who was shot by a federal agent during a December pursuit is charged with assaulting five officers with his car.

Uriah Lafferty was indicted this week on five counts in connection with the Dec. 19 incident near Hermosa. The Rapid City Journal reported Lafferty is accused of assaulting a U.S. Marshal, a Highway Patrol trooper and three Oglala Sioux officers. Lafferty was also charged with conspiracy to distribute at least 50 grams of methamphetamine between August 2014 and December 2019.

The pursuit began on the Pine Ridge Reservation when officers with the Oglala Sioux Tribe tried to stop Lafferty on a federal warrant. Lafferty was shot by a federal agent, but survived. It appears the original arrest warrant stems from a Dec. 17 count of making a false statement while purchasing a gun. Lafferty pleaded not guilty to that charge.

Court records do not list an attorney to comment on Lafferty's behalf in the new case.

The FBI did not name Lafferty when they previously confirmed they were investigating the Dec. 19 pursuit and shooting, but the details they provided match those in Lafferty's indictment.

## Tourism continues to grow in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Officials say more than 14 million people visited South Dakota last year, marking the tenth consecutive year of growth for the state tourism industry.

The Department of Tourism said 2019 saw a record level of visitors, spending and economic impact. The number of visitors increased by about 3% from the prior year.

Visitors spent about \$4 billion, accounting for 5.2% of the state's economy, according to the department's annual report.

Officials say more than 55,000 jobs are supported by the tourism industry or 8.8% of all South Dakota jobs.

The majority of tourists, or 10.7 million, visited South Dakota's state and national parks, which include the Black Hills National Forest.

## Nebraska driver takes deal in South Dakota man's crash death

BROKEN BOW, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska man has taken a plea deal on charges stemming from the crash death of a South Dakota resident.

David Skeels, 67, of Ansley, pleaded guilty Thursday to vehicular homicide, reckless driving and a related count after prosecutors lowered one charge and dropped another. His sentencing is scheduled for March 19, station KCNI reported.

The crash occurred Oct. 23, 2018, at a Custer County road intersection with U.S. Highway 183, about 12 miles (20 kilometers) south of Ansley. An eastbound semi driven by Skeels didn't halt at a stop sign and collided on the highway with a southbound pickup, the Nebraska State Patrol said.

The pickup passenger, Brandon Massmann, 23, was killed, the patrol said. He lived in Brandon, South Dakota.

## Man at health clinic claims he had gun

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Officers have arrested a man who yelled at health clinic workers in Sioux Falls that he had a gun and that they should call police.

The incident happened Wednesday at the Falls Community Health Clinic.

Sioux Falls police spokesman Sam Clemens says clinic staff saw him waiting in the lobby and said he seemed agitated.

Clemens says then the 60-year-old man starting yelling to call police and that he had a gun. Officers responded and arrested him for disorderly conduct. No weapon was found, the Argus Leader reported.

## One year on, Brazilian city haunted by deadly dam collapse

By MARCELO SILVA DE SOUSA Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Like she has so many other nights, Ana Maria Gomes is awakened by the cries of her husband and tries to calm him as he shouts for help from his mine coworkers. She convinces him the dam collapse that devastated their city of Brumadinho and killed at least 270 people happened a year ago.

Sebastião Gomes, who worked in the environmental clean-up division of the mine in Brazil's Minas Gerais state, recounted the episode and said he's learning to live with the nightmares. He is also undergoing psychiatric treatment, still amazed that he survived the wall of mud that buried so many of his friends one year ago Saturday.

And he is not alone. Brumadinho is a city of 40,000 residents tortured by its past, and struggling to find a future, with doctors reporting spikes in the use of anti-anxiety medications and anti-depressants.

"The city is torn apart. A year has gone by chronologically, but it's like it happened yesterday," Gomes, 54, told the Associated Press by phone.

The rupture of mining company Vale's dam created a wave of mud and debris that buried the equivalent of 300 soccer pitches. Families lost children in the mud. Some bodies still haven't been found, and perhaps never will be. And its destruction hasn't halted; it continues to roar through residents' minds, the local economy and the environment.

Gomes was one of the lucky ones who barely avoided death. As the mud charged towards him, carrying everything with it, his friend and coworker Elías Nunes said, "It's over. We're going to die right here."

They sought refuge within a truck, and drove forward. Regretting that, they slammed the car into reverse. But there was no escape from the mud that flowed like lava. Resigned to their fates, they began to pray. The wave projected the vehicle to the mud's surface, saving them, as hundreds of friends and colleagues were crushed and suffocated beneath them.

For survivors and family members of victims, the dam's collapse was only the beginning. Use of anti-depressants jumped 56% in 2019 between January and November from the prior year, while anxiety medication rose 79% in the same period, according to data from Brumadinho's city hall.

"The impact on the population's mental health is similar to that caused by a huge disaster, like Fukushima, or September 11 in the U.S.," said Maila de Castro Neves, a professor of psychiatric care at Minas Gerais state's federal university.

De Castro will evaluate the impact of the dam's collapse on the local population over the coming years. She said local residents are in a "vulnerable state," at risk of anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse and even suicidal behavior.

The human toll from the disaster isn't even fully clear; the search for corpses continues. Rescuers are digging in the mud, trying to locate the bodies of 11 missing victims. They are "shredded jewels," in the words of Andressa Rodrigues, 42, who lost her only son, Bruno, in the disaster. His body was found 105 days after the dam collapse.

Rodrigues, a teacher and councilwoman, lives in the same house she shared with her son, a recent engineering graduate who had attained his dream job working for Brazil's biggest mining company, Vale. Bruno's room remains intact, as though Rodrigues expects her son to come home for dinner, like any other



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night before the catastrophe.

"I still can't free myself from the mud," said Rodrigues, who admits her life now revolves around all kinds of medications, including sleep aids and anti-depressants. "A mother's heart beats with that of her son, and mine is there. They buried him alive, and I'm with him in that bloody mud where I lost him."

The eve of the disaster's anniversary brought some hope to victims' families that their loved ones may find justice. Public prosecutors charged Vale, German auditing firm TÜV SÜD and 16 employees for intentional homicide and environmental crimes. Among the accused is Vale's former CEO, Fabio Schvartsman.

Prosecutors say there is evidence the companies knew the mine was operating with "unacceptable" safety conditions, putting at risk the lives of its employees. Vale and TÜV SÜD executives face up to 30 years jail time.

"Our kids were working with a ticking time bomb over their heads," Rodrigues said. "Every day the rage grows because we're sure it wasn't an accident. They were murdered."

In a statement, Vale expressed that "the accusations of fraud are perplexing" and said it is collaborating with authorities. Schvartsman denied the charges against him and TÜV SÜD has said the cause of the dam failure still hasn't been conclusively clarified, adding that the company continues to cooperate with the investigation.

The paralysis of mining activity, which generated about 60% of town revenue before the tragedy, has left Brumadinho's economic future unknown.

Paradoxically, the economic impact was initially positive, as the city received an infusion of emergency funds from Vale and carried out recovery works. The company paid out more than \$6 billion in compensation, heating up local activity. Stores increased sales, people bought cars, and home-building projects proliferated, according to reports in local press.

"We are aware that the increase in economic activity is temporary, and we are greatly concerned about the future in the medium- and long-term," said Brumadinho's mayor, Avismar de Melo Barcelos, in an emailed statement from his press office.

The punishment was worse for riverside communities and farmers who relied on the Paraopeba River, the town's main source of water, for irrigation and fishing. In three collection points along the river within Brumadinho, the result was the same: horrible water quality, suitable only for boats, according to non-profit group SOS Atlantic Forest. According to the report, heavy metals including iron, manganese and copper were detected at levels above those permitted by law.

For Gomes, the ex-Vale worker, everything changed. That day he suffered only scratches on his arms and knees, but the mental damage endures: he has to undergo various psychological treatments and remains medicated.

The money he received from Vale has afforded him financial stability - though he remains in litigation with the company - and he's writing a book for catharsis. He also gives paid talks about mining to raise awareness about its risks.

Despite everything that transpired, Gomes is hopeful that he -- and Brumadinho -- can find their way and turn the page. But the disaster will remain forever etched in their history.

"Life is full of ups and downs. The tragedies and the losses will always leave wounds, but the town will overcome," he said.

## Substitute teaching a challenge in Jimmy Carter's class

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

Every now and then, Sunday school teacher Kim Fuller makes a point during class and the old man sitting on the front pew raises his eyebrows quizzically.

That old man is her uncle, former president Jimmy Carter — and Fuller's unique challenge is to serve as his substitute in the class he usually teaches himself.

Fuller is the eldest daughter of Carter's late brother Billy Carter, and she has served as the regular

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replacement for the world's best-known Sunday school teacher since Carter underwent brain surgery in November.

Out of the hospital and back home in Plains, Georgia, the 95-year-old Carter has been in his regular, front-row seat at Maranatha Baptist Church, along with his wife Rosalynn, each Sunday since Dec. 29. They sometimes sip coffee during class or hold hands, and they still pose for photos with visitors when able.

It's unclear when or if the nation's oldest former president, a committed Baptist and longtime Sunday school teacher, will return to leading his Bible class, which has drawn huge crowds to Plains in recent years. But in the meantime, Fuller has taken on the task of leading the class, often with her famous uncle in attendance.

"It can be intimidating," she said in an interview Thursday.

Carter sometimes points out an errant statement privately after class, said Fuller, and he also serves as sort of a real-time fact-checker during the sessions. Fuller said she appreciates his input.

"He's good. I'll look at him and say, 'Am I getting that right or pronouncing it correctly?' He always tell me," said Fuller, 63. "It's family. He knows how I teach."

Maranatha Baptist has roughly 30 members, but as many as 450 people attend on any Sunday when Carter teaches. His schedule is posted online, and Fuller said few people ever show up expecting to hear Carter and getting her instead.

Fuller uses the same resource material as Carter — this Sunday she plans to teach about the apostle Paul and his messages from prison — but she lacks the former president's experience of traveling the world and seeing many biblical sites firsthand.

"He probably studies his lesson all week long, and I do, too. But he doesn't need to use the commentaries, and I do," said Fuller, who has helped out as Carter's periodic substitute for about three years.

Carter last taught the class in early November. He was admitted to a hospital on Nov. 11 for surgery to relieve pressure on his brain caused by bleeding due to his recent falls, and he was readmitted a couple weeks later for treatment of a urinary tract infection.

Church members prayed for Carter and his wife of more than 70 years when they first returned to worship after the health scares last month. Carter's niece said he seems to be doing well.

"He looks real good to me," Fuller said.

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This story has been corrected to show Carter and his wife have been married for more than 70 years, not nearly 70 years.

## Senate floor belongs to Trump team as defense case opens

By ERIC TUCKER, LISA MASCARO and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The floor of the Senate now belongs to President Donald Trump's lawyers as they push the Republican-led chamber for his impeachment acquittal on charges that he abused his power and obstructed Congress.

The president's lawyers planned to begin their arguments Saturday in the impeachment trial and were expected to insist that he did nothing wrong when he asked Ukraine's leader to investigate one of Trump's political rivals, former Vice President Joe Biden, who's now seeking the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Trump's legal team has foreshadowed an aggressive, wide-ranging defense that will assert an expansive view of presidential powers. His lawyers intend to portray Trump as besieged by political opponents determined to undo the results of the 2016 election that put him in the Oval Office and to ensure his defeat this November. The lawyers also want to put Biden on the defensive as he campaigns for a first-place finish in the leadoff Iowa caucuses next month.

"They put their case forward. It's our time next," said one of Trump's lawyers. Jay Sekulow.

The opening of the defense's case comes after a three-day presentation by House Democrats. As they wrapped up on Friday, they asserted that Trump will persist in abusing his power and endangering

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American democracy unless Congress intervened to remove him before the 2020 election. They implored Republicans to allow new testimony to be heard before senators render a final verdict.

"Give America a fair trial," said California Rep. Adam Schiff, the lead Democratic impeachment manager. "She's worth it."

Schiff closed Democrats' case after methodical and impassioned arguments detailing charges that Trump abused power by asking Ukraine for politically motivated probes of political rivals, then obstructed Congress' investigation into the matter. Trump's lawyers contend Trump was within his rights as president when he asked Ukraine for the investigation.

House managers made the procession across the Capitol before the trial resumed Saturday to deliver the 28,578 record of their impeachment case to the Senate.

The the seven Democratic prosecutors peppered their arguments with video clips, email correspondence and lessons in American history. Republicans who found the presentation tedious and redundant can expect differences in tone and style from Trump's lawyers, who planned to attack the impeachment as much on political as legal grounds.

"It's really trying to remove the president from the ballot in 2020. They don't trust the American people to make a decision," Sekulow said.

Defense lawyers were expected to press the argument that Trump was a victim not only of Democratic outrage but also of overzealous agents and prosecutors. The lawyers probably will cite mistakes made by the FBI in its surveillance of a former Trump campaign aide in the now-concluded Russia investigation. In response to allegations that he invited foreign interference, they already have argued that it was no different than Hillary Clinton's campaign's use of a former British spy to gather opposition research on Trump in 2016.

Acquittal was likely, given that Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate, and a two-thirds vote would be required for conviction.

Trump, with his eyes on the audience beyond the Senate chamber, bemoaned the trial schedule in a tweet, saying it "looks like my lawyers will be forced to start on Saturday, which is called Death Valley in T.V."

Arguments were scheduled for just a few hours Saturday in what defense lawyers called a sneak preview. They'll continue Monday.

The president is being tried in the Senate after the House impeached him last month on charges he abused his office by asking Ukraine for the probes at the same time the administration withheld hundreds of millions of dollars in military aid. The second article of impeachment against Trump accuses him of obstructing Congress by refusing to turn over documents or allow officials to testify in the House probe.

The Senate is heading next week toward a pivotal vote on Democratic demands for testimony from top Trump aides, including acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and former national security adviser John Bolton, who refused to appear before the House. It would take four Republican senators to join the Democratic minority to seek witnesses, and so far the numbers appear lacking.

"This needs to end," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a Trump confidant. He said he doesn't want to hear from Bolton or from Joe Biden or his son Hunter. The younger Biden who served on a Ukraine gas company's board.

Democrats on Friday tried to preempt anticipated arguments from Trump's lawyers, attacking lines of defense as "laughable."

Those include that Trump had a legitimate basis to be concerned about potential corruption in Ukraine and to pause military aid to the country. One of the president's lawyers, Alan Dershowitz, was expected to argue that an impeachable offense requires criminal-like conduct, even though many legal scholars say that's not true.

With Chief Justice John Roberts presiding, the final day of the Democratic arguments opened with Rep. Jason Crow of Colorado, a former Army ranger, saying the only reason Trump eventually released his hold on the aid Ukraine desperately relied on to counter Russian aggression was because he had "gotten caught."

"The scheme was unraveling," Crow said. The money for Ukraine was put on hold after Trump's July 25

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call to Ukraine that launched the impeachment probe, and released Sept. 11 once Congress intervened. Throughout the three days, Democrats balanced the legal and history lessons with plainspoken language about what they see as at stake: the security of U.S. elections, America's place in the world and checks on presidential power. The Democrats argued that Trump's motives were apparent, that he abused power like no other president in history, swept up by a "completely bogus" Ukraine theory pushed by Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani.

"Let me tell you something. If right doesn't matter, it doesn't matter how good the Constitution is," Schiff said in an emotional plea to a pin-drop-quiet room. "If you find him guilty you must find that he should be removed. Because right matters."

They argued that Trump's abuse was for his own personal political benefit ahead of the 2020 election, even as administration officials were warning off the theory that it was Ukraine, not Russia, that interfered in the 2016 election.

The Democrats' challenge was clear as they tried to convince not just senators but an American public divided over the Republican president in an election year.

A poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research showed the public slightly more likely to say the Senate should convict and remove Trump from office than to say it should not, 45% to 40%. But a sizable percentage, 14%, said they didn't know enough to have an opinion.

One issue with wide agreement: Trump should allow top aides to appear as witnesses at the trial. About 7 in 10 respondents said so, including majorities of Republicans and Democrats, according to the poll.

After both sides have concluded their arguments next week, senators will face the question of whether to call witnesses to testify. But that issue seems all but settled. Republicans rejected Democratic efforts to get Trump aides, including Bolton and Mulvaney, to testify in back-to-back votes earlier this week.

As for the Ukraine connections, evidence has shown that Trump, with Giuliani, pursued investigations of the Bidens and sought the investigation of the debunked theory that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 U.S. election.

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Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Alan Fram, Andrew Taylor, Laurie Kellman, Matthew Daly and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

## Wuhan bans cars, Hong Kong closes schools as virus spreads

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The virus-hit Chinese city of Wuhan, already on lockdown, banned most vehicle use downtown and Hong Kong said it would close schools for two weeks as authorities scrambled Saturday to stop the spread of an illness that has infected more than 1,200 people and killed 41.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said her government will raise its response level to emergency, the highest one, and close primary and secondary schools for two more weeks on top of next week's Lunar New Year holiday. They will re-open Feb. 17.

Lam said that direct flights and trains from Wuhan would be blocked. The outbreak began in the city in central China and has spread nationwide and overseas, fueled by millions of people traveling during the country's biggest holiday.

In a sign of the growing strain on Wuhan's health care system, the official Xinhua news agency reported that the city planned to build a second makeshift hospital with about 1,000 beds. The city previously announced that construction of a hospital of the same size was underway and expected to be completed Feb. 3.

The vast majority of the infections and all the deaths have been in mainland China, but fresh cases are popping up. Australia and Malaysia reported their first cases Saturday and Japan, its third. France confirmed three cases Friday, the first in Europe, and the U.S. identified its second, a woman in Chicago who had returned from China.

The new virus comes from a large family of what are known as coronaviruses, some causing nothing

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worse than a cold. It causes cold- and flu-like symptoms, including cough and fever and, in more severe case, shortness of breath. It can worsen to pneumonia, which can be fatal.

Most of China's provinces and cities activated a Level 1 public health alert, the highest in a four-tier system, the state-owned China Daily newspaper reported Saturday.

China cut off trains, planes and other links to Wuhan on Wednesday, as well as public transportation within the city, and has steadily expanded a lockdown to 16 surrounding cities with a combined population of more than 50 million, greater than that of New York, London, Paris and Moscow combined.

The cities of Yichang, Suizhou and Jingzhou were the latest added to the list on Friday evening and Saturday.

Wuhan went one step further Saturday, announcing vehicle use including private cars would be banned in downtown areas starting after midnight, state media reported. Only authorized vehicles to carry supplies and for other needs would be permitted after that, the reports said.

The city of 11 million people will assign 6,000 taxis to different neighborhoods, under the management of local resident committees, to help people get around if they need to, the state-owned English-language China Daily newspaper said.

In Hong Kong, where five cases of the illness have been confirmed, a marathon that was expected to draw 70,000 participants on Feb. 9 was canceled, the South China Morning Post newspaper reported.

China's biggest holiday, the Lunar New Year, unfolded Saturday in the shadow of the worrying new virus. Authorities canceled a host of Lunar New Year events, and closed major tourist sites and movie theaters.

The National Health Commission reported a jump in the number of infected people to 1,287. The latest tally, from 29 provinces and cities across China, included 237 patients in serious condition. Of the 41 deaths, 39 have been in Hubei province, where Wuhan is the capital city, and one each in Hebei and Heilongjiang provinces.

Most of the deaths have been older patients, though a 36-year-old man in Hubei died earlier this week.

Health authorities in the city of Hechi in Guangxi province said that a 2-year-old girl from Wuhan had been diagnosed with the illness after arriving in the city.

The Australian state of Victoria announced its first case Saturday, a Chinese man in his 50s who returned from China last week, and the state of New South Wales confirmed three more cases later in the day.

Malaysia said three people tested positive Friday, all relatives of a father and son from Wuhan who had been diagnosed with the virus earlier in neighboring Singapore. Japan confirmed a third case, a Chinese tourist in her 30s who had arrived from Wuhan on Jan 18.

The National Health Commission said it is bringing in medical teams from outside Hubei to help handle the outbreak, a day after videos circulating online showed throngs of frantic people in masks lined up for examinations and complaints that family members had been turned away at hospitals that were at capacity.

The Chinese military dispatched 450 medical staff, some with experience in past outbreaks including SARS and Ebola, who arrived in Wuhan late Friday night to help treat the many patients hospitalized with viral pneumonia, Xinhua reported.

Xinhua also said that medical supplies are being rushed to the city, including 14,000 protective suits and 110,000 pairs of gloves from the central medical reserves as well as masks and goggles.

The rapid increase in reported deaths and illnesses does not necessarily mean the crisis is getting worse, but could reflect better monitoring and reporting of the newly discovered virus.

It is not clear how lethal the new coronavirus is, or even whether it is as dangerous as the ordinary flu, which kills tens of thousands of people every year in the U.S. alone.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it is expecting more Americans to be diagnosed with the virus.

The outbreak put a damper on Lunar New Year in China, the first day of the Year of the Rat.

Temples locked their doors, Beijing's Forbidden City, Shanghai Disneyland and other major tourist destinations closed, and people canceled restaurant reservations ahead of the holiday, normally a time of family reunions, sightseeing trips and other festivities in the country of 1.4 billion people.

"We originally planned to go back to my wife's hometown and bought train tickets to depart this afternoon," said Li Mengbin, who was on a stroll by the moat of the closed Forbidden City. "We ended up cancelling. But I'm still happy to celebrate the new year in Beijing, which I hadn't for several years."

Associated Press researcher Henry Hou and video journalist Dake Kang contributed to this report.

## Death toll stands at 22 in Turkish earthquake; 1,000 hurt

By **ANDREW WILKS** Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — The death toll from a strong earthquake that rocked eastern Turkey climbed to 22 Saturday, with more than 1,000 people injured, officials said.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu, speaking at a televised news conference near the epicenter of the quake, said 39 people had been rescued from the rubble of collapsed buildings, including a woman recovered 14 hours after the main tremor.

Rescue workers were continuing to search for people buried under the rubble of collapsed buildings in Elazig province and neighboring Malatya, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said earlier.

Emergency workers and security forces distributed tents, beds and blankets as overnight temperatures dropped below freezing in the affected areas. Mosques, schools, sports halls and student dormitories were opened for hundreds who left their homes after the quake.

"The earthquake was very severe, we desperately ran out (of our home)," Emre Gocer told the state-run Anadolu news agency as he sheltered with his family at a sports hall in the town of Sivrice in Elazig. "We don't have a safe place to stay right now."

The quake hit Friday at 8:55 p.m. local time (1755 GMT) at a depth of 6.7 kilometers (around 4 miles) near Sivrice, the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, or AFAD, said. Various earthquake monitoring centers gave magnitudes ranging from 6.5 to 6.8.

AFAD said it was followed by 228 aftershocks, the strongest with magnitudes 5.4 and 5.1.

At least five buildings in Sivrice and 25 in Malatya province were destroyed, said Environment and Urbanization Minister Murat Kurum. Hundreds of other structures were damaged and made unsafe.

Soylu said 18 people were killed in Elazig and four in Malatya. Some 1,030 people were hurt. Speaking at the same news conference, Koca said 34 people remain in intensive care.

Television footage showed emergency workers removing two people from the wreckage of a collapsed building in the town of Gezin. Another person was saved in the city of Elazig, the provincial capital, and two more from a house in Doganyol, Malatya.

A prison in Adiyaman, 110 kilometers (70 miles) southwest of the epicenter, was evacuated after being damaged in the quake.

AFAD said 28 rescue teams had been working around the clock. More than 2,600 personnel from 39 of Turkey's 81 provinces were sent to the disaster site.

"Our biggest hope is that the death toll does not rise," Parliament Speaker Mustafa Sentop said.

Communication companies announced free telephone and internet services for residents in the quake-hit region, while Turkish Airlines announced extra flights.

Soylu said emergency work was proceeding under the threat of aftershocks.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Twitter overnight that all measures were being taken to "ensure that the earthquake that occurred in Elazig and was felt in many provinces is overcome with the least amount of loss."

Neighboring Greece, which is at odds with Turkey over maritime boundaries and gas exploitation rights, offered to send rescue crews should they be needed.

Elazig is some 565 kilometers (350 miles) east of the Turkish capital, Ankara.

Turkey sits on top of two major fault lines and earthquakes are frequent. Two strong earthquakes struck northwest Turkey in 1999, killing around 18,000 people.

A magnitude 6 earthquake killed 51 people in Elazig in 2010.

## 'This is huge': Locust swarms destroy crops in East Africa

By **BEN CURTIS, JOSPHAT KASIRE** and **CARA ANNA** Associated Press

KATITIKA, Kenya (AP) — The hum of millions of locusts on the move is broken by the screams of farmers and the clanging of pots and pans. But their noise-making does little to stop the voracious insects from feasting on their crops in this rural community.

The worst outbreak of desert locusts in Kenya in 70 years has seen hundreds of millions of the bugs swarm into the East African nation from Somalia and Ethiopia. Those two countries have not had an infestation like this in a quarter-century, destroying farmland and threatening an already vulnerable region with devastating hunger.

"Even cows are wondering what is happening," said Ndunda Makanga, who spent hours Friday trying to chase the locusts from his farm. "Corn, sorghum, cowpeas, they have eaten everything."

When rains arrive in March and bring new vegetation across much of the region, the numbers of the fast-breeding locusts could grow 500 times before drier weather in June curbs their spread, the United Nations says.

"We must act immediately," said David Phiri of the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization, as donors huddled in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, a three-hour drive away.

About \$70 million is needed to step up aerial pesticide spraying, the only effective way to combat them, the U.N. says. That won't be easy, especially in Somalia, where parts of the country are in the grip of the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group.

The rose-colored locusts turn whole trees pink, clinging to branches like quivering ornaments before taking off in hungry, rustling clouds.

Astonished by the finger-length insects, children dash here and there, waving blankets or plucking at branches to shake the locusts free. One woman, Kanini Ndunda, batted at them with a shovel.

Even a small swarm of the insects can consume enough food for 35,000 people in a single day, said Jens Laerke of the U.N. humanitarian office in Geneva.

Farmers are afraid to let their cattle out for grazing, and their crops of millet, sorghum and maize are vulnerable, but there is little they can do.

About 70,000 hectares (172,973 acres) of land in Kenya are already infested.

"This one, ai! This is huge," said Kipkoech Tale, a migratory pest control specialist with the agriculture ministry. "I'm talking about over 20 swarms that we have sprayed. We still have more. And more are coming."

A single swarm can contain up to 150 million locusts per square kilometer of farmland, an area the size of almost 250 football fields, regional authorities say.

One especially large swarm in northeastern Kenya measured 60 kilometers long by 40 kilometers wide



**A farmer's daughter waves her shawl in the air to try to chase away swarms of desert locusts from her crops, in Katitika village, Kitui county, Kenya Friday, Jan. 24, 2020. Desert locusts have swarmed into Kenya by the hundreds of millions from Somalia and Ethiopia, countries that haven't seen such numbers in a quarter-century, destroying farmland and threatening an already vulnerable region.**

(AP Photo/Ben Curtis)

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(37 miles long by 25 miles wide).

Kenya needs more spraying equipment to supplement the four planes now flying, Tale said. Ethiopia also has four.

They also need a steady supply of pesticides, said Francis Kitoo, deputy director of agriculture in south-eastern Kenya's Kitui county.

"The locals are really scared because they can consume everything," Kitoo said. "I've never seen such a big number."

The locusts eat the fodder for animals, a crucial source of livelihood for families who now worry how they will pay for expenses like school fees, he said.

His own concern about the locusts?

"They will lay eggs and start another generation," he said.

A changing climate has contributed to "exceptional" breeding conditions, said Nairobi-based climate scientist Abubakr Salih Babiker.

Migrating with the wind, the locusts can cover up to 150 kilometers (93 miles) in a single day. They look like tiny aircraft lazily crisscrossing the sky.

They are now heading toward Uganda and fragile South Sudan, where almost half the country faces hunger as it emerges from civil war. Uganda has not had such an outbreak since the 1960s and is already on alert.

The locusts also are moving steadily toward Ethiopia's Rift Valley, the breadbasket for Africa's second-most populous country, the U.N. says.

"The situation is very bad but farmers are fighting it in the traditional way," said Buni Orissa, a resident of Ethiopia's Sidama region. "The locusts love cabbage and beans. This may threaten the shaky food security in the region."

Even before this outbreak, nearly 20 million people faced high levels of food insecurity across the East African region long challenged by periodic droughts and floods.

As exasperated farmers look for more help in fighting one of history's most persistent pests, the FAO's Locust Watch offers little consolation.

"Although giant nets, flamethrowers, lasers and huge vacuums have been proposed in the past, these are not in use for locust control," the U.N. agency says. "People and birds often eat locusts but usually not enough to significantly reduce population levels over large areas."

Still, it offered recipes. One suggested seasoning in Uganda is chopped onion and curry powder. Then fry.

Anna reported from Johannesburg. Frank Jordans in Berlin and Elias Meseret in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, contributed.

## Dems say oust Trump or he'll betray again; 'He is who he is'

By LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Closing out their case, House Democrats warned in Donald Trump's impeachment trial that the president will persist in abusing his power and endangering American democracy unless Congress intervenes to remove him before the 2020 election.

They then implored Republican senators to allow new testimony before rendering a final verdict.

"Give America a fair trial," Rep. Adam Schiff, the lead Democratic impeachment manager, said Friday. "She's worth it."

Schiff delivered Democrats' final remarks in the Senate trial after three days of methodical and impassioned arguments detailing charges that Trump abused power by asking Ukraine for politically motivated probes of political rivals, then obstructed Congress' investigation into the matter. The president's lawyers get their first chance to defend him Saturday, and are expected to argue he acted appropriately.

The opening arguments appear to have done nothing to shake Republicans' support for Trump or persuade enough centrist GOP lawmakers to call for new witnesses, including Trump's former national secu-



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ity adviser John Bolton. In his final appeal to lawmakers and a divided nation, Schiff argued that a guilty verdict in the Senate is the only remedy left to curb what he called the "imminent threat" posed to the nation by Trump's unconstitutional impulses.

"He is who he is," Schiff declared. "You know it's not going to stop. ... It's not going to stop unless the Congress does something about it."

The moment of history was apparent, only the third impeachment trial of a U.S. president, as were the partisan views of the Trump presidency and the effort to end it.

When Schiff cited a news story with someone close to Trump saying any Republican voting with Democrats would have their "head on a pike," GOP senators in the chamber began murmuring, "That's not true."

The House impeached Trump last month, accusing him of abusing his office by asking Ukraine for politically motivated probes of Biden and other matters while withholding military aid from a U.S. ally that was at war with bordering Russia. A second article of impeachment accuses him of obstructing Congress by refusing to turn over documents or allow officials to testify in the House ensuing probe.

Said Trump attorney Jay Sekulow, "We're going to rebut and refute, and we're going to put on an affirmative case tomorrow."

Republicans are defending Trump's actions as appropriate and are casting the impeachment trial as a politically motivated effort to weaken him in his reelection campaign. Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate, and eventual acquittal is considered likely.

Before that, senators will make a critical decision next week on Democratic demands to hear testimony from top Trump aides, including Bolton and acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, who refused to appear before the House. It would take four Republican senators to join the Democratic minority to seek witnesses, and so far the numbers appear lacking.

"This needs to end," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a Trump confidant.

With Chief Justice John Roberts presiding, Friday's session opened with an overarching case from Democrats that Trump's actions with Ukraine were not unique but part of a pattern of "destructive behavior" now threatening the core foundations of American democracy.

Schiff told the senators that Trump has shown repeatedly that he is willing to put his personal political interests above those of the country he is sworn to protect.

The evidence shows, he said, that Trump bucked the advice of his own national security apparatus to chase "kooky" theories about Ukraine pushed by lawyer Rudy Giuliani, resulting in "one hell of a Russian intelligence coup" that benefited Vladimir Putin at U.S. expense.

This was not simply a foreign policy dispute, Schiff argued, but a breach of long-held American values for Trump to leverage an ally — in this case Ukraine, a struggling democracy facing down Russian troops — for the investigations he wanted ahead of 2020.

When the House started investigating his actions, Democrats said, Trump blatantly obstructed the probe. Even then-President Richard Nixon, they argued, better understood the need to comply with Congress in some of its oversight requests.

Drawing on historical figures, from the Founding Fathers to the late GOP Sen. John McCain and the fictional Atticus Finch, Schiff made his arguments emphatically personal.

"The next time, it just may be you," he said, pointing at one senator after another. "Do you think for a moment that if he felt it was in his interest, he wouldn't ask you to be investigated?"

The impeachment trial is set against the backdrop of the 2020 election, as voters assess Trump's presidency and his run for a second term. Four senators who are Democratic presidential candidates are off the campaign trail, seated as jurors.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research showed the public slightly more likely to say the Senate should convict and remove Trump from office than to say it should not, 45% to 40%. But a sizable percentage, 14%, said they didn't know enough to have an opinion.

One issue with wide agreement: Trump should allow top aides to appear as witnesses at the trial. About 7 in 10 respondents said so, including majorities of Republicans and Democrats, according to the poll.

No president has ever been removed by the Senate, neither Andrew Johnson in 1868 nor Bill Clinton in

1999. Nixon left office before a House vote that was likely to impeach him.

The House mounted its Trump case after a government whistleblower complained about his July 2019 call with Ukraine. The House relied on testimony from current and former national security officials and diplomats, many who defied White House instructions not to appear.

Evidence presented in the House probe has shown that Trump, with Giuliani, pursued investigations of Biden and his son, Hunter, who served on a Ukrainian gas company's board, and sought a probe of a debunked theory that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 U.S. election.

It's a story line many in the president's camp are still pushing. Giuliani, in an appearance Friday on "Fox & Friends," insisted he would present evidence on his new podcast.

At close, Schiff predicted the Trump team will try to distract senators from the case, in part by lodging personal attacks against all the House prosecutors. He reminded senators what is at stake and read the articles of impeachment one more time.

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Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Alan Fram, Andrew Taylor, Laurie Kellman, Matthew Daly and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

## **Trump's idea of executive power is also impeachment defense**

**By COLLEEN LONG and MICHAEL WARREN Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump has always been a man of absolutes.

Something is the best or the worst, a person is a winner or a total loser, an event has never happened before, even when it has.

Absolutism was the unwritten credo of his career in business and is the guiding light of his presidency as he makes an assertion rarely heard from an American president: that he can do as he pleases.

Now that approach faces its ultimate test as a foundation of Trump's defense in his impeachment trial, namely that he is cloaked with unrestrained authority. How that question is answered, both by the Senate in the impeachment trial and by voters in November, will define how Americans view the concept of presidential power.

Trump's position reaches well beyond the charges of abuse of power and obstruction of justice made in the articles of impeachment the Senate is now considering. The views were outlined in papers by his legal team and are expected in arguments in the trial as soon as Saturday.

"I have the right to do whatever I want as president," Trump declared last year, citing Article II of the Constitution. "It gives me all of these rights at a level nobody has ever seen before."

Not since Richard Nixon told the interviewer David Frost, "When a president does it, it means it's not illegal," has a president come close to making an assertion of power as sweeping as Trump's.

House Democrats prosecuting the impeachment case charge that Trump abused his office by asking Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden while withholding crucial military aid, and obstructed Congress by refusing to turn over documents or allow officials to testify. Republicans defend Trump's actions as appropriate and cast the process as an effort to weaken the president in the midst of his reelection campaign.

In their trial memo, Trump's attorneys contend that the obstruction charge is not valid because he was asserting his legal right and immunity granted to him by his position, adding that to question that would cause "grave damage" to the separation of powers.

"President Trump has not in any way 'abused the powers of the Presidency,'" they argued. "At all times, the president has faithfully and effectively executed the duties of his office on behalf of the American people."

And his lawyers have said his election gives him the right to refuse subpoenas given to his cabinet and staff, to decline to hand over documents to investigators, and to shut down certain witnesses.

"In order to fulfill his duties to the American people, the Constitution, the Executive Branch, and all future occupants of the Office of the Presidency, President Trump and his Administration cannot participate in your partisan and unconstitutional inquiry under these circumstances," White House Counsel Pat Cipollone

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wrote to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Rep. Adam Schiff, the lead impeachment manager, has urged senators to remember the Constitution's framers sought to prevent a chief executive from wielding power as if it "was conferred upon him by divine right."

The American Revolution was fought so that "no person, including and especially the president, would be above the law," Schiff told the Senate on Wednesday. "Nothing could be more dangerous to a democracy than a commander in chief who believed that he could operate with impunity, free from accountability."

That is not a view Trump shares. He has declared that he has an "absolute right" to wield executive authority at least 29 times since his election, according to an Associated Press review of his comments in Factba.se, which compiles and analyzes data on Trump's presidency.

That included when he shut down the government over a border wall battle, threatened to close the U.S.-Mexico border, fired Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, asked other countries to investigate corruption, shared classified intelligence with Russia and said he could pardon himself.

"Trump's usage is, I think, novel — without precedent — in U.S. history of presidential rhetoric," John Wooley, co-director of the The American Presidency Project at the University of California-Santa Barbara, said in an email.

During his impeachment trial President Bill Clinton didn't assert executive privilege nearly as much — he gave his DNA, handed over documents and allowed staff to participate. Republicans who controlled the House impeached him on the charges of obstructing justice and lying to a grand jury in connection with his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. His defense was structured on inconsistencies in the perjury allegations and claims that the investigation had been tainted by political bias.

The Senate, which had a Republican majority, acquitted him.

"In essence, there was more evidence of a crime, perjury, but it was not serious enough to show he should be removed from office," said Bill McCollum, a former Florida congressman who was the impeachment manager during the Clinton trial. "We are just looking at a very different scenario here."

Many presidents have sought to strengthen their hands against Congress and the judiciary, despite George Washington's warning, in his farewell address, against seeking "security and repose in the absolute power of an individual" leader.

Andrew Jackson — whose portrait hangs in Trump's Oval Office — asserted in response to Senate censure that it was "settled by the Constitution, the laws, and the whole practice of the Government that the entire executive power is vested in the President of the United States." His critics widely caricatured him as "King Andrew."

Throughout the 20th century, presidents increasingly acted unilaterally as the executive branch grew dramatically.

"Most of the modern presidents have tended to take a pretty expansive view of the meaning of Commander in Chief powers," Wooley said.

Franklin D. Roosevelt holds the record for issuing executive orders — more than 3,000 of them, an average of 307 per year — as he led the nation out of the Great Depression and through World War II. By comparison, Trump has issued 136, or 47 per year, which is more frequent than any president since Ronald Reagan, whose average was 48, the American Presidency Project database shows.

But no other president appears to have declared that he was personally invested with such unlimited powers, according to database searches of The American Presidency Project and the University of Virginia's Presidential Recordings Program, which also includes transcripts of the secretly recorded conversations of John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard Nixon.

And while White House recordings show Lyndon B. Johnson asserting his war powers authority to send U.S. troops to Vietnam, "it is not Trumpian — it's not a claim of, 'I have the absolute right, the absolute authority,'" said Marc Selverstone, who chairs the Presidential Recordings Program. Johnson was "not making the kinds of claims President Trump is making," Selverstone said.

Trump has also claimed absolute immunity from criminal investigations — he asserted it in his efforts

to keep his tax returns from being revealed in court.

Trump has also said he could not be sued by a former contestant on "The Apprentice," who accused of him of defamation. In those cases, his New York attorneys claimed he could not be charged with a crime.

Trump's lawyers are also asserting there must be a crime for him to be impeached. But legal scholars say the Constitution's standard of "high crimes and misdemeanors" for impeachment is vague and open-ended to encompass abuses of power even if they aren't, strictly speaking, illegal.

Each side got 24 hours over three days to present their case. After the House prosecutors finished Friday, the president's lawyers will follow Saturday. They are expected to take only Sunday off and push into next week.

Warren reported from Atlanta.

## **GOP senators incensed by Schiff's 'head on a pike' remark**

**By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans said lead impeachment prosecutor Adam Schiff insulted them during the trial by repeating an anonymously sourced report that the White House had threatened to punish Republicans who voted against President Donald Trump.

Schiff, who delivered closing arguments for the prosecution, was holding Republican senators rapt as he called for removing Trump from office for abusing his power and obstructing Congress. Doing anything else, he argued, would be to let the president bully Senate Republicans into ignoring his pressure on Ukraine for political help.

"CBS News reported last night that a Trump confidant said that key senators were warned, 'Vote against the president and your head will be on a pike.' I don't know if that's true," Schiff said.

After that remark, the generally respectful mood in the Senate immediately changed. Republicans across their side of the chamber groaned, gasped and said, "That's not true." One of those key moderate Republicans, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, looked directly at Schiff, shook her head and said, "Not true."

"Not only have I never heard the 'head on the pike' line," Collins said in a statement, "but also I know of no Republican senator who has been threatened in any way by anyone in the administration."

It wasn't immediately clear what impact, if any, Schiff's comment would have on upcoming votes on witnesses and the ultimate question of whether Trump should be removed from office. Democrats need support from at least four Republicans to win a vote on calling witnesses, and Schiff's arguments over three days were clearly aimed at persuadable GOP senators.

Hearing the Republican protests, and with an eye toward Collins, Schiff paused and said: "I hope it's not true. I hope it's not true."

But Republicans were already put off.

"That's when he lost me," Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a Republican moderate, said about Schiff's remark, according to her spokeswoman. She denied having been told what the network reported about the White House. Schiff's invocation of it, she added, "was unnecessary."

Collins, another moderate who is up for reelection this year, is one of the few Republican senators who has expressed an openness to calling witnesses in the impeachment trial.

She had been listening intently to Schiff's presentation and writing down some of his points. When he made the "pike" comment, she looked directly at Schiff and slowly and repeatedly shook her head back and forth. When he finished his speech and the trial adjourned, GOP Sens. John Cornyn of Texas and John Barrasso of Wyoming made a beeline for her seat. Collins again shook her head and said, "No."

Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., told reporters that the CBS report is "completely, totally false."

"None of us have been told that," he added. "That's insulting and demeaning to everyone to say that we somehow live in fear and that the president has threatened all of us."

Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro and Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

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

## Campaign crunch time forces progressives to eye private jets

By WILL WEISSERT and ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren have spent the past year courting the Democratic Party's base with appeals to the working class and sweeping promises to curb climate change. But as they balance their responsibilities to participate in the Senate's impeachment trial and rally voters on the campaign trail, they're turning to private air travel, an option typically reserved for the elite and criticized as environmentally unfriendly.

Sanders is expected to charter a flight to Iowa this weekend while the Senate trial is in recess. Warren hasn't finalized her plans but is also considering private travel, and Amy Klobuchar hasn't ruled it out. Only Michael Bennet says he'll be flying commercial.

The senators are facing an unprecedented challenge in the final days before the Feb. 3 Iowa caucuses. At a time when they would typically barnstorm the state, they're instead stuck in Washington as jurors in President Donald Trump's impeachment case. The little time they have for campaigning makes commercial travel tough.

But the private planes present unique issues for Warren and Sanders. As the leading progressive voices in a crowded Democratic primary, they often criticize rivals they deem insufficiently loyal to those values. The sudden use of private travel is an example of how ideological rigidity can sometimes collide with White House aspirations.

"This is the problem of presenting your purity above your practicality," said Democratic strategist Chris Lippincott, who has not endorsed any of the 2020 primary candidates. "When we think about certain candidates who talk a lot about the environment ... you're going to hold them to a different standard."

Lippincott applauded the 2020 presidential hopefuls in the Senate for being willing to fly privately, if that's what their campaigns need.

"I understand it," he said of trying to live progressive values at all times, "but the reality is, there's a big risk of being perceived as being an ideologue and not a problem-solver."

Transportation emissions overall make up the largest share of U.S. climate-damaging emissions, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Globally, air travel pumps out about 3% of overall emissions of climate-destroying carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels. Surging growth of air travel in Asia and around the world means those emissions will triple by 2050, the United Nations says, and recent studies say even that figure underestimates the explosive growth of air travel and its emissions.

In March, Sanders' campaign became the first to announce it would provide carbon offsets, donations to environmental groups meant to mitigate the environmental effects of extra emissions. Since then, it had spent about \$9,000 on them through September. And during his primary challenge to Hillary Clinton in 2016, Sanders paid around \$14,000 for such offsets.

His campaign is making payments to NativeEnergy, based in Burlington, Vermont, which is the same company that Clinton used for them during her presidential bid in 2016. That's also the same firm Warren uses, with her campaign paying a little more than \$10,000 to it in September.

Some climate advocates said they weren't bothered by the private travel, especially because they view a more carbon-conscious administration as a far better result for the climate than four more years of Trump in the White House.

"If you're a presidential candidate running to try to beat Donald Trump, who is a climate denier to his bones, and that requires you to move around the country ... you should do that," said Leah Stokes, a professor and researcher into climate and energy politics at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

"World leaders fly around in airplanes — this is the modern era," Stokes said. They can't just hop a speedy train to Iowa, she said.

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Trump has made a similar point for the opposite reason, poking fun at Democratic environmental plans. "I really don't like their policy of taking away your car, of taking away your airplane rights, of 'Let's hop a train to California,'" Trump said during a rally last February.

Sanders has pledged a \$16.3 trillion environmental plan that would declare climate change a national emergency and calls for the U.S. to move to renewable energy across the economy until 2050. Warren wants to spend \$3 trillion over 10 years to move the U.S. to 100% clean energy. And both are aggressive supporters of the "Green New Deal," a sweeping plan to combat climate change.

Sanders recently suggested on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" that he'd consider a kind of "jet-pooling" arrangement in which he and other candidates could share private flights, saying, "Maybe we can all chip in, get one plane and come back."

That opportunity might have presented itself last weekend since Sanders, Warren and others were campaigning in Iowa and then went to South Carolina for Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations and then on to Washington to be in the Senate. But they didn't share private flights.

Still, Sanders' campaign says the senator's comment to Colbert wasn't realistic. Even if several senators were looking to decamp from Washington to Iowa quickly after the impeachment trial concludes each day, they would be headed to different parts of the state.

It's not just those candidates tethered to Washington by the impeachment trial who often opt to fly private. Former Vice President Joe Biden spent at least \$1.2 million on charter jets through September, while Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, had spent at least \$750,000.

That was more than Sanders (at least \$377,000) and Warren (at least \$190,000) over the same period, though impeachment could change that. Spending data through December 2019 won't be ready until the end of the month. Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg mostly flies private to campaign stops.

Buttigieg's, Biden's and Bloomberg's campaigns all say they are also paying for carbon offsets.

Buttigieg faced criticism this summer for his penchant for flying private from presidential rival Beto O'Rourke, who produced an online ad filmed aboard a commercial jet proclaiming "No private planes for this campaign." Buttigieg responded during a CNN climate change town hall by saying, "This is a very big country, and I'm running to be president of the whole country." O'Rourke, a former Texas congressman, dropped out of the race in November.

Sanders, meanwhile, drew fire after spending nearly \$300,000 on private jets in September 2018, as he crisscrossed the country campaigning for other candidates during the midterm elections.

The issue also came up in August, when Sanders traveled to Paradise, California, which had been ravaged by wildfires, to unveil his plan to fight climate change. He was unapologetic.

"I'm not going to walk to California," Sanders replied when asked about flying private. "We do the best we can as an example, but I'm not going to sit here and tell you that we're not going to use fossil fuels."

Knickmeyer reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Brian Slodysko in Washington and Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, Calif., contributed to this report.

Catch up on the 2020 election campaign with AP experts on our weekly politics podcast, "Ground Game."

## Democrats speak to history with exhaustive impeachment case

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — At times it seemed like few senators in the chamber were really listening. But the House Democrats presenting the impeachment case against President Donald Trump weren't about to stop.

By the time they finished their three days of opening arguments late Friday, House managers had used most of the 24 hours they were given in the Senate impeachment trial. One speech Wednesday by the lead prosecutor, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., ran around two hours.

Overall, it was a performance that defied today's short attention spans as Democrats made an exhaustive — and some said exhausting — case for Trump's removal from office.

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Few minds appeared to be changed, and many senators all but lashed to their seats for the trial described it as tedium. But the seven Democratic prosecutors were speaking not only to the senators — effectively Trump's jurors — but also to history, which will judge his conduct long after his expected acquittal.

"This is not just for the senators now, or the American people, but forever," said Michael Gerhardt, a constitutional law professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law.

Gerhardt said historians would dissect video and transcripts of Democrats' presentation and the case that a team of lawyers representing the White House will make beginning Saturday. The length and detail of the Democratic speeches would be a bonanza, he said.

"History is kind of ruthless. It's not partisan, Democratic versus Republican. It doesn't care about people's feelings," said Gerhardt, who's written books on the impeachment process. "It cares about what's in the record."

Even so, while a presidential impeachment trial is heavily political with a healthy dollop of law, lengthy arguments are a risky way to appeal to people deciding a case, said David Spratt, professor of legal rhetoric at American University's Washington College of Law.

"If you drone on over and over, you can lose credibility with your audience. They stop listening to what's being said," Spratt said.

To lawmakers and anyone observing the proceedings, there was no question who was dominating them: Schiff, the lead investigator into the Ukraine affair and chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. Democrats laid out evidence that Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden, a presidential contender and former vice president, by blocking military aid and a White House meeting the country's new leader coveted as it battles Russia-backed separatists in a grinding war.

According to a breakdown provided by C-SPAN, the public affairs TV network that was broadcasting complete coverage of the trial, Schiff spoke for over eight of the roughly 22 hours that Democrats consumed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Next closest was Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., whose remarks totaled three hours.

Democrats praised Schiff for a smooth, smart delivery and said his team presented a meticulous, methodical explanation of why Trump should be forced from the White House. Republicans criticized the presentation as a long-winded, repetitive waste of time.

"I've tried a lot of cases," said Sen. Jim Risch, R-Idaho, a former prosecutor. "That method of presentation, if you're trying to persuade a jury, is totally ineffective. People can't stay focused for that long on the same thing over and over again."

"No," Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., who might face a competitive reelection in November, said when asked if the lengthy Democratic arguments were effective. "They would have to change my mind and if they continue in about a two-hour loop, presenting the same information and asking for more evidence, then they should rethink whether or not they've got more homework to do."

Tillis is among a handful of GOP senators who could face challenging reelection races this fall, many from closely divided states. For Democrats, the impeachment trial was a chance to build a case that would force those Republicans to choose between protecting Trump and angering moderate voters or voting to remove him, infuriating conservatives.

"Hopefully we'll have a little bit of magic, and it will weigh heavily on the shoulders of some of the Republicans," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., who's tried pressing vulnerable Republicans to back Democratic calls for fresh witnesses and documents. "And they will go to Mitch, and they will say at least we need a fair trial, at least we need documents and witnesses."

Rules that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, pushed through the Senate over Democratic opposition give House prosecutors and a team of White House lawyers 24 hours each to present their cases. The White House side planned to begin its presentation with a short session on Saturday.

Senators were supposed to remain in their seats during arguments, and not speak or look at their cell phones, a constraint they don't normally face. Pained facial expressions and the growing numbers of senators stretching their legs against the rear wall signaled the strain the long days were exacting.

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"That's their problem. The country needs to hear this," said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.

Also clear was that Democrats were targeting voters, many of whom are unfamiliar with the details of their evidence against Trump. Though no one expected most people to sit glued to their televisions for endless hours, the lengthy speeches gave Democrats an opportunity to make their points repeatedly and for highlights to make their way onto social media.

"A lot of people don't know doodly about this," said Frank Bowman, professor at the University of Missouri School of Law who's written about impeachment. "They've essentially got a lease on 24 hours of the American public's time. If I'm them, I'm going to take it."

## Trial highlights: Dems cry cover-up, Trump hails activists

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — From the floor of the Senate, Democratic impeachment prosecutors said Friday that President Donald Trump tried to cover up his actions with Ukraine, another reason to remove him from office.

A few blocks away, Trump told anti-abortion activists on the National Mall that he proudly stands with them. "Unborn children have never had a stronger defender in the White House," Trump said as he became the first sitting president to speak at the annual March for Life.

Highlights of Friday's session and what's ahead as senators conduct just the third impeachment trial of a president:

### UNPRECEDENTED STONEWALLING

Trump, who calls impeachment a hoax and a witch hunt, has refused to turn over documents or allow officials to testify in the House probe, an unprecedented stonewalling that Democrats said was worse than former President Richard Nixon and merits Trump's removal from power.

"Presidents can't be above the law," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren of California, one of the House Democratic prosecutors. She and other Democrats outlined a series of actions Trump has taken to obstruct Congress, the second of two articles of impeachment against him.

The House impeached Trump last month, accusing him of abusing his office by asking Ukraine to announce politically motivated probes of former Vice President Joe Biden and other matters while withholding military aid from the key U.S. ally.

### 'IT'S NOT GOING TO STOP'

Noting Trump's continuing refusal to cooperate with Congress and his vow to "fight all the subpoenas," Democrats said Trump is likely to abuse the power of his office again unless Congress intervenes to remove him.

"You know it's not going to stop. It's not going to stop unless the Congress does something about it," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and the lead Democratic prosecutor.

"President Trump tried to cheat. He got caught. And then he worked hard to cover it up," said Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York, another Democratic prosecutor. Jeffries decried a "toxic mess at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue" and said it's up to Congress to try to "clean it up."

### 'MOST PRO-LIFE PRESIDENT'

As Democrats argued for Trump's removal, the president was at the National Mall for the annual March for Life.

Trump was hailed in speeches and on signs as "the most pro-life" American president ever, a sign that white evangelical and conservative Christians remain among Trump's most loyal backers. Trump is counting on those voters to help bring him across the finish line as he campaigns for re-election.

Critics accused Trump of using the march to try to distract from impeachment. Ilyse Hogue, the president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, called the speech "an act of desperation, plain and simple."

### IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU

Schiff, in making the case against Trump, asked senators to put themselves in the place of Biden or



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Marie Yovanovitch, the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine who was viewed as an obstacle to probes of Biden and his son, Hunter, and was removed from her position.

"The next time, it just may be you," Schiff said, pointing at one senator after another. "Do you think for a moment that if he felt it was in his interest, he wouldn't ask you to be investigated?"

"You cannot leave a man like that in office when he has violated the oath of office," Schiff added.

'HEAD ON A PIKE'

Making the closing argument for Democrats as they wrapped up three days of discussion, Schiff urged Republican senators to show "moral courage," even if means voting against their party. He cited a CBS News story, citing an unnamed source, that a Trump confidant had warned Republicans: "vote against the president and your head will be on a pike." Schiff said he hoped the story wasn't true, but Republicans reacted angrily.

"That's not true," Maine Sen. Susan Collins said on the floor, shaking her head. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, told reporters, "Certainly, I have not been told that my head is upon a pike." Collins and Murkowski are considered the two Republicans most likely to support a Democratic request for witnesses and documents. GOP Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma called Schiff's statement "completely, totally false. That's insulting and demeaning to everyone to say that we somehow live in fear and that the president has threatened all of us."

WHAT'S AHEAD

After Democrats dominated the stage for three days, Trump's legal team is set to start making its case on Saturday. Trump, characteristically, weighed in on the schedule on Twitter: It "looks like my lawyers will be forced to start on Saturday, which is called Death Valley in T.V."

Said Trump attorney Jay Sekulow: "We're going to rebut and refute, and we're going to put on an affirmative case" that could continue through Tuesday.

After that, senators will face a critical decision next week on Democratic demands to hear more testimony from top Trump aides, including acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and former national security adviser John Bolton, who refused to appear before the House. It would take four Republican senators to join the Democratic minority to seek witnesses, and so far the numbers appear lacking.

## Senate floor belongs to Trump team as defense case opens

By ERIC TUCKER, LISA MASCARO and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The floor of the U.S. Senate now belongs to President Donald Trump's lawyers as they push the Republican-led chamber for an acquittal on charges that he abused his power and obstructed Congress.

The president's attorneys will begin their arguments Saturday in the impeachment trial and are expected to insist the president did nothing wrong when he asked Ukraine's leader to investigate political rival Joe Biden.

The attorneys have foreshadowed an aggressive, wide-ranging defense that will assert an expansive view of presidential powers and paint Trump as besieged by political opponents determined to undo the results of the last election and ensure his defeat in the next one. They are also expected to try to put Biden on the defensive as he campaigns for a first-place finish in the Iowa caucuses next month.

"They put their case forward. It's our time next," said Trump attorney Jay Sekulow.

The opening of the defense's case comes after a three-day presentation by House Democrats, who as they wrapped up Friday warned that the president will persist in abusing his power and endangering American democracy unless Congress intervenes to remove him before the 2020 election. They implored Republicans to allow new testimony to be heard before they render a final verdict.

"Give America a fair trial," said Rep. Adam Schiff, the lead Democratic impeachment manager. "She's worth it."

Schiff closed Democrats' case after three days of methodical and impassioned arguments detailing charges that Trump abused power by asking Ukraine for politically motivated probes of political rivals, then

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obstructed Congress' investigation into the matter. Trump's lawyers get their first chance to defend him Saturday, and are expected to argue that he was within his rights as president when he asked Ukraine for the investigation.

In making their case that Trump invited Ukraine to interfere in the 2020 election, the seven Democratic prosecutors peppered their arguments with video clips, email correspondence and lessons in American history. Republicans who found the presentation tedious and redundant can expect differences in tone and style from Trump's lawyers, who plan to attack the impeachment as much on political as legal grounds.

"It's really trying to remove the president from the ballot in 2020. They don't trust the American people to make a decision," Sekulow said.

Defense lawyers have signaled that they'll cast Trump as a victim not only of Democratic outrage but also of overzealous agents and prosecutors. They'll likely invoke mistakes made by the FBI in its surveillance of a former Trump campaign aide in the now-concluded Russia probe. In response to allegations that he invited foreign interference, they've already argued that it's no different than Hillary Clinton's campaign's use of a former British spy to gather opposition research on Trump in 2016.

With acquittal likely — Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate, and a two-thirds vote would be required for conviction — the defense team is also arguing to an American public that heads to the polls in 10 months. Trump, eyes on the audience beyond the Senate chamber, bemoaned the schedule in a tweet, saying it "looks like my lawyers will be forced to start on Saturday, which is called Death Valley in T.V."

Arguments are scheduled for just a few hours Saturday in what defense lawyers called a sneak preview. They'll continue Monday.

The president is being tried in the Senate after the House impeached him last month on charges he abused his office by asking Ukraine for the probes at the same time the administration withheld hundreds of millions of dollars in military aid. The second article of impeachment against Trump accuses him of obstructing Congress by refusing to turn over documents or allow officials to testify in the House probe.

The Senate is heading next week toward a pivotal vote on Democratic demands for testimony from top Trump aides, including acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and former national security adviser John Bolton, who refused to appear before the House. It would take four Republican senators to join the Democratic minority to seek witnesses, and so far the numbers appear lacking.

"This needs to end," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a Trump confidant. He said he doesn't want to hear from Bolton or the Bidens.

Like a prosecutor speaking to jurors for the final time before deliberations, Democrats moved Friday to preempt anticipated arguments from Trump's lawyers, attacking lines of defense as "laughable."

Those include that he had a legitimate basis to be concerned about potential corruption in Ukraine and to pause military aid to the country. One of the president's lawyers, Alan Dershowitz, is expected to argue that an impeachable offense requires criminal-like conduct, even though many legal scholars say that's not true.

With Chief Justice John Roberts presiding, the final day of the Democratic arguments opened with Rep. Jason Crow of Colorado, a former Army ranger, saying the only reason Trump eventually released his hold on the aid Ukraine desperately relied on to counter Russian aggression was because he had "gotten caught."

"The scheme was unraveling," Crow said. The money for Ukraine was put on hold after Trump's July 25 call to Ukraine that launched the impeachment probe, and released Sept. 11 once Congress intervened.

Throughout the three days, Democrats balanced the legal and history lessons with plainspoken language about what they see as at stake: the security of U.S. elections, America's place in the world and checks on presidential power. The Democrats argued that Trump's motives were apparent, that he abused power like no other president in history, swept up by a "completely bogus" Ukraine theory pushed by attorney Rudy Giuliani.

"Let me tell you something. If right doesn't matter, it doesn't matter how good the Constitution is," Schiff said in an emotional plea to a pin-drop-quiet room. "If you find him guilty you must find that he should be removed. Because right matters."

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They argued that Trump's abuse was for his own personal political benefit ahead of the 2020 election, even as administration officials were warning off the theory that it was Ukraine, not Russia, that interfered in the 2016 election.

The Democrats' challenge was clear as they tried to convince not just fidgety senators but an American public divided over the Republican president in an election year.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research showed the public slightly more likely to say the Senate should convict and remove Trump from office than to say it should not, 45% to 40%. But a sizable percentage, 14%, said they didn't know enough to have an opinion.

One issue with wide agreement: Trump should allow top aides to appear as witnesses at the trial. About 7 in 10 respondents said so, including majorities of Republicans and Democrats, according to the poll.

After both sides have concluded their arguments next week, senators will face the question of whether to call witnesses to testify. But that issue seems all but settled. Republicans rejected Democratic efforts to get Trump aides, including Bolton and Mulvaney, to testify in back-to-back votes earlier this week.

As for the Ukraine connections, evidence has shown that Trump, with Giuliani, pursued investigations of Biden and his son, Hunter, who served on a Ukrainian gas company's board, and sought the probe of the debunked theory that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 U.S. election.

It's a story line many in the president's camp are still pushing. Giuliani, in an appearance Friday on "Fox & Friends," insisted he would present evidence on his new podcast of "collusion going on in Ukraine to fix the 2016 election in favor of Hillary" Clinton.

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Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Alan Fram, Andrew Taylor, Laurie Kellman, Matthew Daly and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

## Protests or not, politics and Olympics are intertwined

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

More than a half-century later, Tommie Smith and John Carlos are cemented into Olympic lore — their names enshrined in the Olympic Hall of Fame in the United States, their portrait an indelible fixture on the universal sports landscape.

As for that raised-fist salute that transformed them into Olympic icons, while also symbolizing the power athletes possess for the short time they're on their biggest stage — it's still forbidden.

Such was the warning this month in the announcement by the IOC, whose athletes' commission banned kneeling and hand gestures during medals ceremonies and competition. It's all part of an attempt to tamp down political demonstrations at this summer's Tokyo Games.

"The eyes of the world will be on the athletes and the Olympic Games," IOC President Thomas Bach said, in delivering an impassioned defense of the rules.

IOC athlete's rep Kirsty Coventry portrayed the guidance as a way to provide some clarity on an issue that has confounded both athletes and authorities for decades.

The issue, always bubbling, surfaced last year when two U.S. athletes — Gwen Berry and Race Imboden — used medal ceremonies to make political statements at the Pan American Games. Those gestures brought a strong rebuke from the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic committees, but the groups still appear confused and conflicted about the entire matter. (The USOPC didn't welcome Smith and Carlos to an officially sanctioned event until 2016.)

The IOC got its athletes' commission, which has often contradicted key athlete movements in other Olympic areas, to get out front on the issue and offer its advice. It was essentially no different from what the IOC itself has been touting for years. Not surprisingly, some view it as an out-of-touch, retrograde attempt to stifle an increasingly outspoken generation of athletes.

The mushrooming of live TV, to say nothing of the outlets now available on social media, has empowered athletes — the best examples from recent years would be Colin Kaepernick and Megan Rapinoe, but there are dozens more — to use sports to send a message.

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Rapinoe's reaction to the IOC announcement: "We will not be silenced." As much as her play, Rapinoe's outspoken fight for equal pay for the U.S. women's soccer team underscored the American victory in the World Cup last year and made her, in the minds of many, the most influential athlete of 2019.

"So much for being done about the protests," Rapinoe wrote on Instagram last weekend. "So little being done about what we are protesting about."

The athletes' commission said disciplinary action would be taken "on a case-by-case basis as necessary" and listed the IOC, the sports federations and the athletes' national governing bodies as those who will have authority to make the call. It made no mention of what the sanctions could be. In that respect, it added confusion, and might have served to emphasize the power disparity between the athletes, who are the show, and the agencies who run this multibillion-dollar enterprise and, for all intents and purposes, control the invitation list.

Among the other questions not answered in the guidance document:

Who, exactly, will adjudicate the individual cases and how will cases be adjudicated?

Who, exactly, will have ultimate responsibility for implementing sanctions?

While those questions went unanswered, the document did include the reminder that "it is a fundamental principle that sport is neutral and must be separate from political, religious or any other type of interference."

That concept, however, runs counter to long thread of Olympics-as-politics storylines that have dominated the movement since it was founded in 1896.

A truncated list includes:

—Hitler's hosting of the 1936 Games (winter and summer) in Nazi Germany.

—IOC President Avery Brundage's ham-handed handling of South Africa's status in the Olympics during apartheid.

—The 1972 massacre of Israeli athletes during the Munich Games.

—The U.S. boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics, followed by the Soviet Union's boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

—The IOC's awarding of the 2008 Olympics to Beijing, in part compelled by promises to shine a light on the country's attempt to improve human rights.

More recently, Bach has found the committee a permanent place at the United Nations, used the Pyeongchang Games in South Korea to strive for better relations between the Koreas and spent ample time negotiating deals with leaders who have been kind enough to spend billions to stage the Olympics.

Though the IOC would argue that there are still places to make political statements in the Olympic space — news conferences and social media among them — it does not condone them on the field of play or the medals stand. It made all the more striking the picture the IOC tweeted out last Monday: Bach posing on a mountain with athletes in uniform from the United States and Iran at the Youth Olympic Games — a political statement during a time of strife that is designed to forward the long-held IOC-driven credo that the Olympics promote peace.

Peace itself is dependent on politics, and the people who run the Olympics are well connected to that world.

No fewer than nine members of IOC itself are princes, princesses, dukes or sheiks — and that list doesn't include the multitude of government officials involved in organizations that branch out of the IOC. For instance, half the World Anti-Doping Agency's board comes from governments across the globe.

Bach has singled out political concerns as a major divider in the Russian doping scandal that has embroiled the Olympics the past five years — implying it's as much an East vs. West issue as one based on decisions that stem from painstakingly accumulated evidence.

The latest move comes in the run-up to what figures to be a divisive election year in the United States, the country that sends the largest contingent to the Olympics, wins the most medals and often lands some of the most outspoken athletes on the podium.

Smith and Carlos were booted from Mexico City after their protest. If history — to say nothing of Rapinoe's reaction — is any guide, the IOC could be placed in the position to decide whether to make that

same sort of statement again.

## Chicago woman is 2nd US patient with new virus from China

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Chicago woman has become the second U.S. patient diagnosed with the dangerous new virus from China, health officials announced Friday.

The woman in her 60s returned from China on Jan. 13 without showing any signs of illness, but three or four days later she called her doctor to report feeling sick.

The patient is doing well and remains hospitalized “primarily for infection control,” said Dr. Allison Arwady, Chicago’s public health commissioner.

Earlier this week, a man in his 30s in Washington state became the first U.S. patient, also diagnosed after returning from a trip to the outbreak’s epicenter in central China.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is expecting more Americans to be diagnosed with the newly discovered virus in coming days, as worldwide the number of confirmed cases has reached about 1,300.

The virus can cause fever, coughing, wheezing and pneumonia. It is a member of the coronavirus family that’s a close cousin to the deadly SARS and MERS viruses that have caused outbreaks in the past.

Still, “CDC believes that the immediate risk to the American public continues to be low at this time, but the situation continues to evolve rapidly,” said CDC’s Dr. Nancy Messonnier.

And those first two patients did the right thing, recognizing their travel risk and alerting doctors to it, so that health authorities could get them isolated to prevent spread, tested promptly, and start monitoring people who’ve had close contact with them.

It took about 36 hours for the first U.S. patient to be tested, get the results from the CDC in Atlanta and be hospitalized after he went to a clinic Sunday morning, according to a timeline released Friday by health officials in Washington state.

The incubation period is thought to be two weeks. But it’s also a heavy flu season, and some of the symptoms are similar, Messonnier said.

“We want everyone to err on the side of caution if they have those symptoms and have a travel history,” she stressed.

The Washington state patient was in satisfactory condition Friday in an isolation unit at Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett, 30 miles north of Seattle. Nurses who’ve trained for Ebola patients are providing his care, wearing hoods with plastic face shields and using respirators to breathe filtered air. They are bagging and storing disposable gloves, linens and gowns until the CDC tells them what to do with the patient’s medical waste.

“We have been preparing for this since 2015,” said Robin Addison, one of the nurses and co-leader of the hospital’s biocontainment team. The hospital is one of about 150 nationwide ready to assess patients with Ebola or other highly contagious diseases, with training money provided by Congress.

Nationally, over 2,000 returning travelers had been screened at U.S. airports and 63 people in 22 states were being tested, although 11 of them so far have been found free of the virus, the CDC said.

China has issued massive travel bans in hard-hit sections of that country to try to stem spread of the virus. For now, CDC said it will keep up its screening process at five U.S. airports but will reevaluate its necessity.

“Right now, our response is very much a work in progress,” said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., as lawmakers emerged from a briefing with federal health authorities. “There’s a lot we’re still learning.”

In Chicago, the health commissioner said the newest patient hadn’t had close contact with many people since becoming ill or taken public transportation or attended large gatherings.

“This is all very reassuring as far as infection risk to the general public,” Arwady said.

“There is no need for the general public to change their behavior in any way.”

AP writers Carla K. Johnson in Seattle, Alan Fram in Washington and Ed White in Detroit contributed to this report.

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## Doubts loom over nominating process for Grammy Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Questions have loomed for years around the nominations process for the Grammy Awards. But the doubts reached a new level this week after the Recording Academy's just-ousted CEO claimed the show is rigged and full of conflicts of interest.

The academy, which puts on the 62nd Grammys on Sunday, says nominees are selected from contenders who are voted into the top 20 in each category. But some people view the voting process as less than transparent because the choice of finalists happens behind closed doors. That has stirred claims that members of key nominating committees promote projects they worked on or projects they favor based on personal relationships.

People have become more conscious of the idea that Grammys might be won "through all these nefarious, back-channel kinds of ways," said Robert Thompson, a trustee professor of television and popular culture at the Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

Deborah Dugan was fired only months into her job as head of the Recording Academy and recently filed an explosive complaint alleging that she was sexually harassed and that the music organization was a "boys club" that favors friends. The academy, which has accused Dugan of misconduct, said it launched an investigation.

At the 2018 Grammys, when Rapsody earned nominations for best rap album and best rap song, her producer, 9th Wonder, sat on the rap committee, and some argued that she would not have earned nominations without 9th Wonder's influence. Q-Tip even publicly called out 9th Wonder that year since A Tribe Called Quest's album did not earn any nominations.

A few years earlier, in 2014, producer Salaam Remi was part of the Grammy nominations process when a mostly unknown album he worked on — "New York: A Love Story" by actor-singer Mack Wilds — earned a nomination for best urban contemporary album.

This year, Lizzo was nominated in the R&B categories with album-filler songs — a move that some suspect was designed to help her become the most nominated act at the show. But it potentially took away from other R&B acts that outperformed her or had a stronger place in the genre's culture during the voting period.

The Grammys also have a long history of keeping rap and contemporary R&B stars out of the top categories, rarely awarding them album, song or record of the year. Instead, the prizes go to a pop, rock or country act.

"I don't even understand why anyone's shocked at this point about anything," Steve Stoute, the CEO and founder of the independent music distribution company United Masters, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Do you need to see a videotape of unfair, inequitable ways in which they handle their businesses? Because it's clear."

Stoute, a former record label boss and advertising executive who has worked with Jay-Z and Mary J. Blige, has been vocal about the Grammys' irrelevance for years, even taking out a full-page ad in the New York Times after Eminem and Justin Bieber lost top honors at the 2011 show.

He said the organization never learned how to change with the times. Although the award show itself is still "relevant and contemporary," when it comes to voting "and the legacy and perspective on what's art and what isn't, they're blatantly lost."

Outside of the top four categories, the academy has formed several nomination review committees for specific genres to safeguard the music's integrity and to serve as additional checks and balances.

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Not all genres have such committees, though, and the rap category did not get one until the 2018 Grammys. The change allowed rising acts to earn nominations over veteran performers like Eminem and Kanye West, who seemed to get nominated no matter what they released. The committee was also in place to prevent embarrassing wins such as Macklemore & Ryan Lewis besting Kendrick Lamar for best rap album at the 2014 show.

Other embarrassing moments, like when the wrong film was mistakenly awarded best picture at the Oscars in 2017, contribute to suspicions that major artistic honors are "being run by a summer camp group or something like that," Thompson said. "I think it makes people suspicious who are already cynical about some of these processes."

The academy defended its voting process in a statement issued Thursday, insisting it operates "in a fair and ethical manner."

Committee members' names are kept secret "for the obvious reason of preventing lobbying from outside parties, therefore further protecting the integrity of the voting process," the statement read. "Because these committee members are at the top of their craft, and many members work with multiple artists, it is not unusual that some of the people in each room will end up with nominations from the first round."

If a committee member qualifies for a Grammy, that person is "required to leave the room for the entire listening session" and is not allowed to vote in that category, the academy said.

In 2018, the Grammys seemed set up to honor rap, R&B and Latin music — a response to heavy criticism the previous year, when Beyoncé's pop culture juggernaut of an album, "Lemonade," lost album of the year to Adele's "25." Adele's recording was one of the best-selling albums of the last decade, though culturally, it did not move the needle like Beyoncé's project.

So the top three categories focused on urban music and black and brown performers. Top nominees included Jay-Z, Kendrick Lamar, Childish Gambino, Bruno Mars and Luis Fonsi, who shattered records with "Despacito."

Some argued that Ed Sheeran, who had one of the year's most successful songs with "Shape of You," should have earned nominations. But had Sheeran earned a nomination, he might have easily won the award, taking away from the academy's plan to award a rap or R&B performer. Mars, who released an R&B album that year though he was already a major pop star at the time, swept the top three categories.

Because of the constant drama, some critics say the awards are not as cherished as they once were.

"I think the value of a Grammy has diminished over the years greatly," Stoute said. "However, I think the show itself, performing on the show, has value, and there's still a group of artists that hope for the best. And some of us just really want it to change, but that door is closing."

## House is given tape of Trump calling for ambassador's ouster

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ALISON KODJAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — An associate of Rudy Giuliani has provided congressional investigators with a recording of President Donald Trump saying he wanted to get rid of the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, whose ouster emerged as an issue in the president's impeachment, his attorney told The Associated Press on Friday.

The Giuliani associate, Lev Parnas, attended a small dinner with Trump at his Washington hotel in April 2018. Joseph Bondy, Parnas' lawyer, said he turned over to the House Intelligence Committee a recording from the dinner in which Trump demands the removal of Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch.

The recording, which was first reported by ABC News, appears to contradict the president's statements that he did not know Parnas, a key figure in the investigation. It came to light as Democrats continue to press for witnesses and other evidence to be considered during the Senate impeachment trial.

ABC News released a portion of the recording online late Friday. A voice that appears to be Parnas can be heard saying, "The biggest problem there, I think where we need to start is we got to get rid of the ambassador." He later can be heard telling Trump, "She's basically walking around telling everybody: 'Wait, he's gonna get impeached. Just wait.'"

A speaker who appears to be Trump then responds: "Get rid of her! Get her out tomorrow. I don't care."

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Get her out tomorrow. Take her out. OK? Do it."

Parnas and associate Igor Fruman worked with Giuliani on a push to get Ukraine to announce it would investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination. On the recording, the two tell Trump that the U.S. ambassador has been insulting him, which leads directly to the apparent remarks by the president.

The White House denied any suggestion of presidential wrongdoing.

"Every president in our history has had the right to place people who support his agenda and his policies within his administration," White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said.

Yovanovitch, who was viewed as an obstacle to probes into Biden and his son Hunter, was not recalled from her position until the following April. She said the decision was based on "unfounded and false claims by people with clearly questionable motives" that she was disloyal to Trump.

House investigators have been working to document an almost yearlong effort on the part of Parnas and Giuliani to have Yovanovitch removed from her post. Parnas and Fruman were recently indicted by the Southern District of New York on charges including conspiracy to commit campaign finance fraud. Both have pleaded not guilty.

Democrats seized on the recording as further evidence of Trump's involvement.

"If this is additional evidence of his involvement in that effort to smear her, it would certainly corroborate much of what we've heard, but I'm not in a position yet to analyze that, not having looked at it," said Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee who is helping lead the impeachment proceedings against Trump.

Parnas has done a series of interviews in recent days in which he has asserted that Trump was aware of the plan to remove Yovanovitch. Trump has distanced himself from Parnas, and the president's supporters have questioned his credibility and motives.

"I don't know Parnas other than I guess I had pictures taken, which I do with thousands of people," Trump said last week. "But I just met him. I don't know him at all. Don't know what he's about, don't know where he comes from, know nothing about him. I can only tell you this thing is a big hoax."

The president is being tried in the Senate after the House impeached him last month, accusing him of abusing his office by asking Ukraine to probe the Bidens while withholding military aid from a U.S. ally at war with Russia. The second article of impeachment accuses Trump of obstructing Congress by refusing to turn over documents or allow officials to testify in the House probe.

Republicans have defended Trump's actions as appropriate and are casting the process as a politically motivated effort to weaken him in his reelection campaign. Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate, and acquittal is considered likely.

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Kodjak reported from Washington.

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Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Kodjak at <http://twitter.com/@AliKodjak>.

## The big lesson from the Bezos hack: Anyone can be a target

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Reporter

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — You may not think you're in the same league as Jeff Bezos when it comes to being a hacking target. Probably not, but you — and just about anyone else, potentially including senior U.S. government figures — could still be vulnerable to an attack similar to one the Amazon founder and Washington Post owner apparently experienced.

Two U.N. experts this week called for the U.S. to investigate a likely hack of Bezos' phone that could have involved Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. A commissioned forensic report found with "medium to high confidence" that Bezos' iPhone X was compromised by a video MP4 file he received from the prince in May 2018.

Bezos later went public about the hack after the National Enquirer tabloid threatened to publish Bezos'



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private photos if he didn't call off a private investigation into the hacking of his phone. It's not clear if those two events are related. The Saudis have denied any involvement in the purported hack.

The events could potentially affect U.S.-Saudi relations. On Friday, Sen. Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, said he is asking the National Security Agency to look into the security of White House officials who may have messaged the crown prince, particularly on personal devices. Jared Kushner, a White House aide and President Donald Trump's son-in-law, is known to have done so using WhatsApp.

Wyden called reports of the Bezos hack "extraordinarily ominous" and said they may have "startling repercussions for national security."

But they could resonate at the personal level as well. As the cost of hacking falls while opportunities to dig into peoples' online lives multiply, more and more people are likely to end up as targets, even if they're not the richest individuals in the world.

Ultimately, that boils down to a simple lesson: Be careful who you talk to — and what you're using to chat with them.

"People need to get out of the mindset that nobody would hack them," said Katie Moussouris, founder and CEO of Luta Security. "You don't have to be a specific target or a big fish to find yourself at the mercy of an opportunistic attacker."

WhatsApp, owned by Facebook, is generally considered a secure way of trading private online messages due to the fact that it scrambles messages and calls with encryption so that only senders and recipients can understand them. What many people may not have realized is that it, like almost any messaging service, can act as a conduit for malware.

That encryption, however, is no help if a trusted contact finds a way to use that connection to break into the phone's operating system. In fact, an infected attachment can't be detected by security software while it's encrypted, and apps like WhatsApp don't scan for malware even once files are decrypted.

WhatsApp users can disable the automatic downloading of photos, videos and other media, which happens by default unless the user takes action.

Other messaging apps are likely also vulnerable. "It just so happens that this one was a vulnerability in WhatsApp," said JT Keating, of Texas-based security firm Zimperium. "It could have been in any one of any number of apps."

Prince Mohammed exchanged numbers with Bezos during a U.S. trip in spring 2018. On the same visit, the prince also met with other tech executives, including the CEOs of Google, Apple and Palantir, as well as sports and entertainment celebrities and academic leaders. Virgin Group founder Richard Branson gave the Saudi delegation a tour of the Mojave Air and Space Port in the desert north of Los Angeles.

Google and Apple didn't respond to emailed requests for comment this week on whether their executives shared personal contacts after that trip. Palantir Technologies confirmed that its CEO Alex Karp met with the prince but said they never shared personal messages. Virgin Group said it was looking into it.

UC Berkeley cybersecurity researcher Bill Marczak cautioned that there's still no conclusive evidence that the Saudi video was malicious, adding that it might be premature to jump to broader conclusions about it. Many other security experts have also questioned the forensics report upon which U.N. officials are basing their conclusions.

But Marczak said it is generally good advice to "always be on the lookout for suspicious links or messages that sound too good to be true."

Even caution about avoiding suspicious links might not be good enough to ward off spyware — especially for high-profile targets like dissidents, journalists and wealthy executives. Hackers-for-hire last year took advantage of a WhatsApp bug to remotely hijack dozens of phones and take control of their cameras and microphones without the user having to click anything to let them in.

In such cases, said Marczak, "there doesn't need to be any interaction on the part of the person being targeted."

## AP Exclusive: Feds plan to move Epstein warden to prison job

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The warden in charge when Jeffrey Epstein ended his life in his jail cell is being moved to a leadership position at another federal correctional facility, putting him back in the field with inmates despite an ongoing investigation into the financier's death, two people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

The federal Bureau of Prisons is planning to move Lamine N'Diaye to the role at FCI Fort Dix, a low-security prison in Burlington County, New Jersey, the people said. The move comes months after Attorney General William Barr ordered N'Diaye be reassigned to a desk post at the Bureau of Prisons' regional office in Pennsylvania after Epstein's death as the FBI and the Justice Department's inspector general investigated.

One of the people said the agency planned to move N'Diaye into the new role on Feb. 2. The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss an internal personnel matter.

It was unclear why the agency was planning to return N'Diaye to a position supervising inmates and staff members, even though multiple investigations into Epstein's death remain active. The inspector general's investigation is continuing, and the Justice Department is still probing the circumstances that led to Epstein's death, including why he wasn't given a cellmate.

Epstein took his own life in August while awaiting trial on charges he sexually abused girls as young as 14 and young women in New York and Florida in the early 2000s.

Epstein's suicide cast a spotlight on the Bureau of Prisons and highlighted a series of safety lapses inside a high-security unit of one of the most secure jails in America. Barr said Epstein's ability to take his own life in federal custody had raised "serious questions that must be answered." He said in an interview with the AP in November that the investigation revealed a "series" of mistakes made that gave Epstein the chance to take his own life and that his suicide was the result of "a perfect storm of screw-ups."

Two correctional officers responsible for watching Epstein have pleaded not guilty to charges alleging they lied on prison records to make it seem as though they had checked on Epstein, as required, before his death. Instead, investigators say they appeared to sleep for two hours and had been browsing the internet — shopping for furniture and motorcycles — instead of watching Epstein, who was supposed to be checked on every 30 minutes.

The attorney general also removed the agency's acting director in the wake of Epstein's death and named Kathleen Hawk Sawyer, the prison agency's director from 1992 until 2003, to replace him.

Since Epstein's death and N'Diaye's removal as warden, the Manhattan jail has had two interim leaders. The newest warden, M. Licon-Vitale, used to oversee a federal prison in Danbury, Connecticut. Her first big order of business has been to deal with jailed lawyer Michael Avenatti's complaints about his treatment at the lockup.

The Bureau of Prisons has been plagued for years by chronic violence, extensive staffing shortages and serious misconduct.

Sisak reported from New York. Follow Sisak at [twitter.com/mikesisak](https://twitter.com/mikesisak) and Balsamo at [twitter.com/MikeBalsamo1](https://twitter.com/MikeBalsamo1).

## Use of 'rescues' by Mexican migration officials criticized

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The headline on a statement from Mexico's National Immigration Institute read: "INM rescues 800 Central American migrants who entered (Mexico) today irregularly."

For many people who watched the moments when hundreds of Mexican national guardsmen with helmets and riot shields confronted hundreds of migrants who had been resting in the shade after walking all morning, "rescues" didn't seem to be the right word.

Defenders of migrants' rights say rescues typically don't involve spraying those being rescued with pepper spray. Those requiring rescue usually don't run away from their rescuers.

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But such euphemisms have become the language of immigration policy and not just in Mexico. The same terminology has been employed in Europe for immigrants crossing the Mediterranean, though sometimes those migrants are in unseaworthy vessels in need of assistance.

The same statement Thursday from Mexico's immigration agency said the migrants were taken to "migration shelters," which is a step beyond the agency's previous language calling its detention centers "immigration stations."

Mexico's immigration agency has used the term "rescue" for years. Sometimes it has seemed a plausible fit, like when immigration agents find 100 migrants stuffed into the back of a trailer in sweltering heat and the driver has run off. There no doubt are times when migrants require rescuing.

The U.S. Border Patrol uses the term as well — also at times in dubious situations — though most often in scenarios including migrants lost in the desert without water, a migrant drowning in the Rio Grande or migrants found in the back of a semi-trailer.

The migrants rounded up Thursday had entered Mexico by crossing a river, not through immigration controls, so critics wondered why authorities didn't just say they were detained?

Mexico's National Immigration Institute did not immediately respond to questions about its terminology. Sergio Prieto Díaz, chair of the Migration and Trans-border Processes group at the College of the Southern Border, said the government's language is aimed at justifying and obscuring what is really happening.

"What they're achieving with this term in a way is disguising the militarization and the repression of immigration at the border," Prieto said. "It's sketching the state as protector and guarantor of people traveling in an unprotected and risky way."

The "paternalistic" use of the word de-legitimizes the migrants, he said. "Because the image that they ultimately want to give is this notion that they are rescuing people who act irrationally, who embark on unnecessary dangers, who risk their lives and the lives of their children almost they would say without reason."

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador didn't use the word rescue when talking about the migrants Friday, but he expressed satisfaction with the actions of National Guard and applauded their restraint.

He said he had instructed Foreign Affairs Secretary Marcelo Ebrard to make sure the migrants remained safe all the way back to their countries.

"Be careful with security throughout the assisted returns," López Obrador said he told him, employing the latest bureaucratic euphemism for deportations.

## At least 18 dead, hundreds hurt as quake hits eastern Turkey

By SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — A 6.8-magnitude earthquake rocked a sparsely-populated part of eastern Turkey on Friday, killing at least 18 people, injuring more than 500 and leaving some 30 trapped in the wreckage of toppled buildings, Turkish officials said.

Rescue teams from neighboring provinces were dispatched to the affected areas, working in the dark with floodlights in the freezing cold, and Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said troops were on standby to help. Hundreds of residents were left homeless or with damaged homes.

TV footage showed rescuers pull out one injured person from the rubble of a collapsed building in the district of Gezin, in the eastern Elazig province. Around 30 were believed to be trapped inside collapsed structures in Elazig province, Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said. A video take at the scene shows residents running after the quake hit and emergency vehicles near a damaged building.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca, who traveled to the afflicted area together with Soylu, said 13 people were killed in Elazig, including two people who suffered heart attacks, and five others died in Malatya. A total of 553 people were hurt, including 11 who were in serious condition.

Some 30 buildings had collapsed from the quake in the two provinces, according to Murat Kurum, the environment minister.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Twitter that all measures were being taken to "ensure

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that the earthquake that occurred in Elazig and was felt in many provinces is overcome with the least amount of loss."

Neighboring Greece, which is at odds with Turkey over maritime boundaries and gas exploitation rights, offered to send rescue crews should they be needed.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis phoned Erdogan to offer "condolences and sympathy on behalf of the Greek people," Mitsotakis' office said in a statement.

The quake struck at 1755 GMT, 8:55 p.m. local time, at a depth of 6.7 kilometers near the town of Sivrice in Elazig, the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, or AFAD, said. It was followed by several aftershocks, the strongest with magnitudes 5.4 and 5.1.

Elazig is some 750 kilometers (465 miles) east of the capital, Ankara.

People in Elazig whose homes were damaged or were too afraid to go indoors were being moved to student dormitories or sports center amid freezing conditions.

Elazig Governor Cetin Oktay Kaldirim told NTV television that a fire broke out in a building in Sivrice, near the epicenter, but was quickly brought under control.

Interior Minister Soylu was at a meeting on earthquake preparedness when the quake struck.

The Kandilli seismology center in Istanbul said the quake measured 6.5., while the U.S. Geological Survey gave the preliminary magnitude as 6.7, and said the quake affected not only Turkey but also Syria, Georgia and Armenia.

Different earthquake monitoring centers frequently give differing estimates.

NTV said the earthquake was felt in several Turkish provinces and sent people running outdoors in panic.

Turkey sits on top of two major fault-lines and earthquakes are frequent. Two strong earthquakes struck northwest Turkey in 1999, killing around 18,000 people.

A magnitude 6 earthquake killed 51 people in Elazig in 2010.

## NFL's Saints fight to shield emails in Catholic abuse crisis

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The New Orleans Saints are going to court to keep the public from seeing hundreds of emails that allegedly show team executives doing public relations damage control for the area's Roman Catholic archdiocese to help it contain the fallout from a burgeoning sexual abuse crisis.

Attorneys for about two dozen men suing the church say in court filings that the 276 documents they obtained through discovery show that the NFL team, whose owner is devoutly Catholic, aided the Archdiocese of New Orleans in its "pattern and practice of concealing its crimes."

"Obviously, the Saints should not be in the business of assisting the Archdiocese, and the Saints' public relations team is not in the business of managing the public relations of criminals engaged in pedophilia," the attorneys wrote in a court filing. "The Saints realize that if the documents at issue are made public, this professional sports organization also will be smearing itself."

The Saints organization and its attorneys emphatically disputed any suggestion that the team helped the church cover up crimes. In a statement Friday, the Saints said the archdiocese sought its advice on how to handle media attention that would come from its 2018 release of its list of more than 50 clergy members "credibly accused" of sexual abuse.

"The advice was simple and never wavering. Be direct, open and fully transparent, while making sure that all law enforcement agencies were alerted," the team said.

The team added that it has "no interest in concealing information from the press or public" and that it "merely requested the court to apply the normal rules of civil discovery." However, attorneys for the Saints argued in court papers this month that the 2018-19 emails were intended to be private and should not be "fodder for the public."

The archdiocese is also fighting the release of the emails.

The National Football League, which was advised of the matter by plaintiffs' attorneys because the Saints' emails used the team's nfl.com domain, has not commented on the case. NFL policy says everyone who

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is a part of the league must refrain from "conduct detrimental to the integrity of and public confidence in" the NFL.

A court-appointed special master is expected to hear arguments in the coming weeks on whether the communications should remain confidential.

The Associated Press, which has extensively covered clergy sexual abuse in a series of stories over the past year, filed a motion with the court supporting the release of the documents as a matter of public interest.

"This case does not involve intensely private individuals who are dragged into the spotlight," the AP argued, "but well-known mega-institutions that collect millions of dollars from local residents to support their activities."

Ties between local church leaders and the Saints include a close friendship between New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond and Gayle Benson, who inherited the Saints and the New Orleans Pelicans basketball team when her husband, Tom Benson, died in 2018. The archbishop was at Gayle Benson's side as she walked in the funeral procession.

Gayle Benson has given millions of dollars to Catholic institutions in the New Orleans area, and the archbishop is a regular guest of hers at games and charitable events for the church.

Attorneys for the men suing the church say "multiple" Saints personnel, including Senior Vice President of Communications Greg Bensel, used their team email to advise church officials on "messaging" and how to soften the impact of the archdiocese's release of the list of credibly accused clergy.

"The information at issue bears a relationship to these crimes because it is a continuation of the Archdiocese's pattern and practice of concealing its crimes so that the public does not discover its criminal behavior," wrote plaintiffs' attorneys Richard Trahant, John Denenea Jr. and Soren Gisleson. "And the Saints joined in."

Attorneys for the Saints acknowledged in a court filing that the team assisted the archdiocese in its publishing of the list but said that was an act of disclosure — "the opposite of concealment."

In its statement, the team said its executives and ownership "remain offended, disappointed and repulsed by the actions of certain past clergy. We remain steadfast in support of the victims who have suffered and pray for their continued healing."

A handful of Saints emails that emerged last year in the clergy abuse litigation included an October 2018 exchange in which Bensel asked an archdiocese spokeswoman whether there might be "a benefit to saying we support a victims right to pursue a remedy through the courts."

"I don't think we want to say we 'support' victims going to the courts," Sarah McDonald, the archdiocese's communications director, replied, "but we certainly encourage them to come forward."

The fight over the emails is part of a flurry of claims filed against the archdiocese over its employment of George F. Brignac, a longtime schoolteacher and deacon who was removed from the ministry in 1988 after a 7-year-old boy accused him of fondling him at a Christmas party. That accusation followed claims that Brignac abused several other boys, including one case that led to his acquittal in 1978 on three counts of indecent behavior with a juvenile.

Church officials permitted Brignac, 85, to act as a lay minister until local news accounts of his service in 2018 prompted his ouster and an apology from the archdiocese. The AP last year reported that Brignac, despite his supposed defrocking, also maintained access to schoolchildren and held leadership roles as recently as 2018 in the Knights of Columbus.

Following a new wave of publicity — in which Brignac told a reporter he had touched boys but never for "immoral purposes" — Brignac was indicted last month on a rape charge that could land him behind bars for the rest of his life. The prosecution came more than a year after a former altar boy told police that Brignac repeatedly raped him beginning in the late 1970s. Police said the abuse began when the boy was 7 and continued until he was 11.

The archdiocese, meanwhile, has settled several lawsuits against Brignac and included the former deacon on its credibly accused list.

A lawyer for the archdiocese, E. Dirk Wegmann, said earlier this month that the plaintiffs' attorneys

seeking the release of the emails are engaged in a “proverbial witch hunt with respect to decades-old abuse” and want to give the messages to the media to “unfairly try to tar and feather the archdiocese.”

AP Sports Writers Brett Martel in New Orleans and Barry Wilner in Raleigh, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

## Trump, a late convert to cause, attends anti-abortion rally

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump vowed to stand with anti-abortion activists Friday as he became the first sitting president to speak at the March for Life, an annual gathering that is one of the movement’s highest profile and most symbolic events.

“Today as President of the United States, I am truly proud to stand with you,” he told a crowd of thousands braving the cold on the National Mall. “Unborn children have never had a stronger defender in the White House.”

It was just four years ago when a political committee supporting one of Trump’s Republican rivals unveiled an ad slamming his views on abortion, complete with footage from a 1999 interview in which he declared, “I am pro-choice in every respect.”

But on Friday, Trump was hailed in speeches and on signs as “the most pro-life” American president ever. The reception was yet another sign of his remarkable political transformation and the fact that white evangelical and conservative Christians remain among Trump’s most loyal backers. And the appearance made clear that, as he heads into the 2020 election, Trump is counting on those voters to help bring him across the finish line.

“I think it’s a brilliant move,” said Ralph Reed, chair of the Faith and Freedom Coalition and one of Trump’s most prominent evangelical supporters, of Trump’s decision to become the first president to take the event’s stage. Reed said the president’s appearance would “energize and remind pro-life voters what a great friend this president and administration has been.”

It also shows how much times have changed.

Past presidents who opposed abortion, including Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush, steered clear of personally attending the march to avoid being too closely associated with demonstrators eager to outlaw the procedure. They sent remarks for others to deliver, spoke via telephone hookup or invited organizers to the White House — but never appeared at the march.

Over the last 10 years, however, the Republican Party has undergone a “revolution,” displaying a new willingness to “embrace the issue as not only being morally right but politically smart,” said Mallory Quigley, a spokeswoman for the Susan B. Anthony List and Women Speak Out PAC, which is planning to spend \$52 million this cycle to help elect candidates opposed to abortion rights.

While views of abortion have remained relatively stable over two decades of polling — with roughly 6 in 10 Americans saying abortion should be legal in all or most cases, according to Pew Research Center — both the Republican and Democratic parties have taken harder-line positions for and against abortion rights.

“There used to be a middle in this country and candidates would not want to alienate the middle,” said Ari Fleischer, who served as White House press secretary under President George W. Bush. “And it just seems that that is over and that both parties play to their bases.”

During his first three years in office, Trump has embraced socially conservative policies, particularly on abortion. He’s appointed judges who oppose it, cut taxpayer funding and painted Democrats who support abortion rights as extreme in their views.

“President Trump has done more for the pro-life community than any other president, so it is fitting that he would be the first president in history to attend the March for Life on the National Mall,” said White House spokesman Judd Deere.

On Friday, his administration took another step, threatening California with the potential loss of federal health care funding over the state’s requirement that insurance plans cover abortions. Meanwhile, Trump’s

campaign announced the creation of a new campaign coalition, "Pro-life Voices for Trump."

Trump's thinking on the matter has been simple: If he supports the cause, "why wouldn't he show up to their big event?" said Matt Schlapp, chair of the American Conservative Union and a close ally of the White House. He said the appearance would be deeply significant for participants and "cement even tighter the relationship" Trump has with conservative activists across the country.

"I've had people be moved to tears over the fact that he's going," said Schlapp. "It's a big deal,"

March attendees began streaming onto the Mall early Friday morning, many holding signs with slogans like "MAKE UNBORN BABIES GREAT AGAIN!" and "I VOTE PRO-LIFE FIRST." In some ways, it had the feel of a Trump campaign rally, with vendors selling pro-Trump buttons and hats.

"I am very impressed with him. It takes a lot of guts to do something that nobody else has done before," said Janet Peterson, who traveled from South Carolina for the event, and credited Trump's decision to appear on his New York roots.

"If you tell them, 'This isn't the status quo' or 'We don't do it this way,' they're more likely to give you a double middle finger and do it," she said.

Trump used his speech, in part, to attack Democrats for embracing what he labeled "radical and extreme positions" on abortion, and praised attendees, saying they were motivated by "pure, unselfish love." Vice President Mike Pence, who was traveling in Italy Friday, also appeared via video recorded at the Vatican following a meeting with Pope Francis.

The full embrace underscored Trump's dramatic evolution on the issue of abortion from his days as a freewheeling New York deal-maker, when he described himself as "very pro-choice" in a 1999 interview on NBC's "Meet the Press."

By 2016, however, Trump said his views had changed and that he was now opposed to abortion except in the case of rape, incest and when the life of the mother is at risk.

And to the surprise of many, he has been embraced by the movement.

"These voters who are pro-life love Donald Trump and they will crawl across broken glass to get him re-elected," said Reed, who credited Trump with having "masterfully capitalized on his pro-life position in a way I think no one could have envisioned four years ago,"

Critics, meanwhile, accused Trump of using the march to try to distract from his impeachment trial in the Senate, with Ilyse Hogue, the president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, calling it "an act of desperation, plain and simple."

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Associated Press writer Hannah Fingerhut and Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

## **NFL player Antonio Brown released on bail by Florida judge**

**By CURT ANDERSON AP Legal Affairs Writer**

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — NFL free agent Antonio Brown was released on bail Friday after a night in a Florida jail, where he turned himself in to face charges that he and his trainer attacked the driver of a moving truck that carried some of his possessions from California.

Broward County Judge Corey Amanda Cawthon set a \$110,000 bond and imposed conditions including surrendering his passport, wearing a GPS monitor, possessing no weapons or ammunition, and agreeing to a mental health evaluation and random drug testing.

Brown was released a few hours after the hearing, his lawyer said.

Brown, 31, had appeared via video in a green jail outfit, with his wrists shackled. He spoke only to answer the judge's questions.

Prosecutors had sought no bail, pointing out that the wide receiver is a wealthy sports figure who is a risk of flight if released. They noted that police had been called to his Florida home 18 times since December, for various reasons.

But one of Brown's lawyers, Eric Schwartzreich, said Brown deserved credit for surrendering voluntarily and had no incentive to flee.

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"He could have clearly left. He's not going to go anywhere," Schwartzreich said. "He wanted to turn himself in."

Brown was one of the NFL's top wide receivers during his nine seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was traded to the Oakland Raiders last year but released before ever playing a regular season game following several off-the-field incidents. He was then signed by the New England Patriots, who released Brown in September after a second woman in 10 days accused him of sexual misconduct.

A Hollywood police statement said Brown's arrest warrant included charges of burglary with battery, burglary of an unoccupied conveyance and criminal mischief. Officials responded Tuesday afternoon to a disturbance call where the alleged victim said Brown and his trainer, Glenn Holt, hit him outside Brown's Hollywood home.

Holt was arrested and charged with one count of burglary with battery, but officials couldn't make contact with Brown at the time.

According to a police arrest report, the altercation began as an argument over Brown's refusal to pay \$4,000 to the driver to release his household goods. The driver called police and reported vandalism after he said Brown threw a rock as he drove away, causing a small dent and chipping the paint, an officer wrote.

The driver later returned when the manager of his company told him that Brown would now pay the \$4,000, and an additional \$860 for the damage and the driver's time. Brown then paid the \$4,000, but refused to pay the rest, so the driver returned to the van to call his company, and that's when Brown "started another verbal argument," police said.

"Brown stepped up into the cabin of the vehicle and started to physically grab and pull (the driver)," while Holt "entered the vehicle and grabbed the keys from the ignition," police said. The driver tried to get the keys back and cut his hand in the process, according to the report.

Police say the driver suffered injuries including scratches on his neck, shoulder and arm, a cut on his finger and a scrape on his stomach.

Holt then used the keys to open the truck, while Brown "and other unidentified friends" began removing boxes. The boxes, however, belonged to another client, police said. When the driver told them so, Brown and the others "started tossing the items back into the truck causing damage to some of the property," an officer wrote.

Hollywood police were called again, and when officers arrived, Brown "retreated inside of his residence and shut the door."

## Protesters fear rising costs if firm buys dot-org universe

By ANICK JESDANUN and BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The company that controls the dot-org universe is trying to sell the online registry to an investment firm for more than \$1 billion, drawing opposition from activists who protested Friday and others who fear costs would soar if a for-profit company is in charge of registering the website suffix.

About 20 people representing nonprofits rallied outside the Los Angeles building housing the organization that oversees domain names, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. ICANN is meeting this weekend and is expected to rule by mid-February on plans by private-equity firm Ethos Capital to buy the Public Interest Registry for \$1.1 billion.

Holding signs saying, "Save Dot Org," and chanting, "ICANN, you can stop the sale," opponents said they were concerned that the cost of registering a dot-org website will skyrocket. They also worry about the potential loss of freedoms of speech and expression if the registry is in the wrong hands.

"Who is going to stand up when the pressure comes from the owners of this private equity firm to get more money off their investment and to raise domain prices?" said Elliot Harmon, activism director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation. "Who is going to stand up for nonprofits when governments come along that don't have the civil society's interests at their best hearts, asking them to take down the websites of their critics?"

Ethos Capital and the Internet Society, which runs the registry now, said those concerns are misplaced



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and the sale is being misunderstood.

They said in a statement that prices will remain low, the registry's managers will stay in place and the infusion of capital will ensure the long-term growth of dot-org. They also rejected assertions that online content would be spied on and censored.

"This notion is baseless and, frankly, a demonstration of the type of speculation that has taken the discussion surrounding the future of .ORG irresponsibly out of context," the statement said. "Ethos and PIR take freedom of expression very seriously, and the registry's commitment to free speech will continue unabated."

The protesters hoped to give an ICANN board member a letter signed by 35,000 supporters urging it to block the sale. After two hours, they were beginning to walk away when most of the board emerged to meet with them.

Chairman Maarten Botterman said ICANN is looking at the impact of the sale and what guarantees they could obtain for dot-org registrants, though he made no promises.

"I think they also understand that if they're going to destroy the image of dot-org, that they have a problem," Botterman said.

The signatures presented were backed by 700 organizations, including Greenpeace, Consumer Reports, Farm Aid, Girl Scouts of the USA and the American Bible Society.

Domain names such as apnews.com have historically been used by computers to find websites and send email, and their value grew as companies and groups adopted them for branding. The Associated Press, a nonprofit, also uses a dot-org domain, ap.org.

Speculators have registered a variety of names under popular domain suffixes such as dot-com and dot-org, and an easy-to-remember name can fetch millions of dollars in the resell market. Owners of popular suffixes can collect hundreds of millions of dollars a year in registration fees.

Though domain names are less prominent these days as more people reach websites using search engines and apps, they are still important for email addresses, billboards and other non-digital advertising.

The dot-org suffix has the distinction of being one of the original domains created in the mid-1980s.

Since 2003, dot-org has been managed by the Public Interest Registry at the Internet Society, a nonprofit founded by many of the internet's early engineers and scientists. In that role, the registry collects annual fees of about \$10 from each of the more than 10 million dot-org names registered worldwide.

The Internet Society uses some of that money to finance its advocacy and administrative programs, which include creating technical standards for the internet.

It said proceeds from the sale will fund an endowment to provide more diversified and sustainable resources long term. The group described Ethos Capital as "a mission-driven firm" committed to continuing the registry's operations.

Although dot-org is often associated with nonprofit organizations, it can be registered by anyone, including for-profit corporations and individuals. That won't change with a new, for-profit owner.

Ethos has committed to limiting price increases to 10% a year — the same cap that had been in place until ICANN lifted it in June 2019.

Critics also fear a new owner could change policies and reduce protections for domain name owners, including non-governmental organizations that operate in authoritarian countries. A website can suddenly become unreachable, for instance, if the suffix owner decides to suspend a registration.

Several advocacy groups, including the EFF and Public Knowledge, wrote a letter to the Internet Society insisting that dot-org "be managed by a leader that puts the needs of NGOs over profits."

The suffix has been in for-profit hands before. Before the Public Interest Registry, Verisign Inc. and its predecessor, Network Solutions, managed dot-org, along with dot-com and dot-net.

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Jesdanun reported from New York.

## China expands lockdown against virus, fast-tracks hospital

By YANAN WANG Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China expanded its lockdown against the deadly new virus to an unprecedented 36 million people and rushed to build a prefabricated, 1,000-bed hospital for victims Friday as the outbreak cast a pall over Lunar New Year, the country's biggest, most festive holiday.

The number of confirmed cases around the world climbed sharply to more than 850, with at least 26 deaths, all of them in China.

Meanwhile, France announced that three people had fallen ill with the virus — the disease's first appearance in Europe. And the United States reported its second case, involving a Chicago woman in her 60s who was hospitalized in isolation after returning from China.

On Wall Street, stocks slumped amid fears over the widening crisis, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average losing 170 points and the S&P 500 posting its worst day in three months. Health care companies suffered losses, along with financial institutions, airlines and other tourism and travel industry businesses.

Transportation was shut down in Wuhan, the city of 11 million at the epicenter of the outbreak, and in at least 12 other cities in central China's Hubei province, encompassing a population bigger than that of New York, London, Paris and Moscow combined.

And authorities in Beijing and other cities canceled many public celebrations and other events marking Lunar New Year, which falls on Saturday.

Hospitals in Wuhan grappled with a flood of patients and a lack of supplies. Videos circulating online showed throngs of frantic people in masks lined up for examinations, and some complained that family members had been turned away at hospitals that were at capacity.

Authorities in Wuhan and elsewhere put out calls for medicine, disinfection equipment, masks, goggles, gowns and other protective gear.

Wuhan officials said they are rapidly constructing a new hospital to deal with the crisis, to be completed Feb. 3. It will be modeled on a SARS hospital that was built in Beijing in just six days during the SARS outbreak.

The seriousness of the crisis was still an open question.

The new virus comes from a large family of what are known as coronaviruses, some causing nothing worse than a cold.

But it is not clear just how lethal this coronavirus is, or even whether it is as dangerous as ordinary flu, which kills tens of thousands of people every year in the U.S. alone. Scientists say it is also not clear if it spreads as easily as SARS, its genetic cousin, which also originated in China and killed about 800 people in 2002-03.

The rapid increase in reported deaths and illnesses does not necessarily mean the crisis is getting worse. It could instead reflect better monitoring and reporting of the newly discovered virus, which can cause cold- and flu-like symptoms, including cough, fever and shortness of breath, but can worsen to pneumonia.

"It's still too early to draw conclusions about how severe the virus is because at the beginning of any outbreak you would focus more on the severe cases," said Tarik Jasarevic, a spokesman for the World Health Organization in Geneva. "And then maybe we are missing some mild cases because people will just be a little bit sick and will not have it tested. And they will recover."

In France, Health Minister Agnes Buzyn said that two infected patients had traveled in China and that France should brace for more such cases. A third case was announced in a statement from her ministry about three hours later.

"We see how difficult it is in today's world to close the frontiers. In reality, it's not possible," she said. Buzyn said authorities are seeking to reach anyone who might have come in contact with the patients: "It's important to control the fire as quickly as possible."

In the U.S., the latest person confirmed to have the disease was reported to be doing well. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention likewise said it is expecting more Americans to be diagnosed with the virus.

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Still, "CDC believes that the immediate risk to the American public continues to be low at this time, but the situation continues to evolve rapidly," said the agency's Dr. Nancy Messonnier.

With Chinese authorities afraid that public gatherings will hasten the spread of the virus, the outbreak put a damper on Lunar New Year. Temples locked their doors, Beijing's Forbidden City, Shanghai Disneyland and other major tourist destinations closed, and people canceled restaurant reservations ahead of the holiday, normally a time of family reunions, sightseeing trips, fireworks displays and other festivities in the country of 1.4 billion people.

Wuhan's usually bustling streets, malls and other public spaces were unnervingly quiet on Day Two of its lockdown, and masks were mandatory in public. Shoppers emptied store shelves, stocking up for what could be an extended period of isolation. Karaoke bars, movie theaters and internet cafes around the region were shut down.

While most of the deaths have been older patients, a 36-year-old man in Hubei died on Thursday.

The vast majority of cases have been in and around Wuhan or involved people who visited the city or had personal connections to those infected. About two dozen cases in all have been confirmed outside mainland China, nearly all of them in Asia: Hong Kong, Macao, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam and Nepal.

Many countries are screening travelers from China and isolating anyone with symptoms.

Chinese officials have not said how long the shutdowns of the cities will last.

Recalling the government's initial cover-up of SARS, many Chinese are suspicious of the case numbers reported by officials. Authorities have promised transparency.

China's cabinet, the State Council, announced it will be collecting information on government departments that have failed in their response to the outbreak, including "delays, concealment and under-reporting of the epidemic."

The state broadcaster CCTV's annual Spring Festival Gala program, which attracted more than 1 billion viewers last year, paid tribute to the medical workers fighting the outbreak.

"Please believe in China," the hosts said. "With the most transparent public information ... on the battle-front of the epidemic, we will definitely win."

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Associated Press researcher Henry Hou and video journalist Dake Kang in Beijing and writer Frank Jordans in Berlin contributed to this report.

## For businesses, virus in China fans fear and uncertainty

By **PAUL WISEMAN** and **MARTHA MENDOZA** Associated Press

China's worst health crisis in years has sparked fear and uncertainty for businesses from North America to Asia that depend on trade in the affected region.

Experts say it's too soon to know how disruptive the crisis will prove. But it's already having an impact.

McDonald's has shuttered restaurants in five Chinese cities, including the inland port city of Wuhan where the crisis is centered. Shanghai Disneyland has temporarily closed as a precaution. Restrictions on travel and fears of flying to the region are threatening to depress demand for oil and jet fuel just as China's Lunar New Year is beginning.

In a sign of China's vast economic reach, even niche companies in America have begun feeling squeezed. In Houston, Rockstar Wigs worries that production delays in China will hold up shipments. Omaha, Nebraska-based Home Instead Health Care has stopped sending caregivers to the homes of elderly clients in Wuhan.

So far, there are 830 confirmed cases of the virus and 26 deaths. Wuhan and 12 other Chinese cities are on lockdown, isolating a combined population of more than 36 million.

"Personally, I now cannot go to Wuhan to negotiate new orders, meet with new vendors, take foreign companies for supplier visits, and visit trade shows," said Stanley Chao, a consultant in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, who helps foreign companies do business in China. "I may lose three to five trips to China, which is my bread and butter. In turn, my team in China cannot work, and I may have to tempo-

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rarily lay them off for a while.”

The growing fears over the virus rattled financial markets Friday. The Standard & Poor’s 500 stock index endured its worst day since early October and snapped a two-week winning streak. The S&P index fell 0.9% after having been down as much as 1.3% earlier. Shares in airlines and other companies in the travel and tourism industries, which stand to be among the hardest-hit sectors if the crisis worsens, fell sharply.

So far at least, the virus appears to be less lethal than the SARS outbreak of 2003, which killed hundreds, though it is too soon to say for sure. And Beijing has apparently been more forthcoming about the health risks this time, leaving less room for panic-inducing rumors to take hold.

“The authorities are sharing more information,” said Kent Kedl, partner at the consultancy Control Risks responsible for Greater China. “They’re getting out in front of it.”

Moreover, because the outbreak coincides with the Lunar New Year holiday, many businesses are closed as tens of millions of migrant workers return from big cities to their hometowns in the countryside.

Still, Wuhan is a central hub for China. Isolating the region could devastate Chinese production in automobiles, aviation, high-tech mechanical and electrical manufacturing, said Ahmed Rahman, an economist at Lehigh University.

“Its central role in facilitating exchange between the Chinese hinterlands and the rest of the planet cannot be overstated,” Rahman said. “Arguably, out of all the regions of China, closing off Wuhan may be the most disruptive to the global economy.”

Tourism could be hurt, too, because of the region’s many flights to Bangkok and Tokyo.

Many businesses are scrambling to contain the potential damage.

McDonald’s said it has closed all of its restaurants in five cities in Hubei province — Wuhan, Ezhou, Huanggang, Qianjiang and Xiantao — until further notice. Its operations are running in other cities in Hubei where public transportation is available.

The fast-food giant is also taking the temperature of all employees when they arrive at work and sending anyone with a fever or cold symptoms home. Delivery drivers are required to wear masks. McDonald’s is also disinfecting high-contact surfaces more frequently at its Chinese establishments, including tables, chairs door handles and self-ordering kiosks.

The Shanghai Disney Resort announced Friday that it is temporarily closing Shanghai Disneyland “in response to the prevention and control of the disease outbreak and in order to ensure the health and safety of our guests.”

Ford, General Motors and Fiat Chrysler all have restricted travel to Wuhan and other parts of China affected by the virus. Most auto factories, though, remain closed for the Chinese New Year and haven’t been affected yet. Ford said in a statement that it has a special team monitoring the situation.

Fiat Chrysler has banned corporate travel in areas locked down by the Chinese government due to the virus, while GM has restricted travel to all of China unless it is “business critical and approved in advance,” a company statement said.

Home Instead Senior Care, based in Omaha, Nebraska, which sends caregivers to tend to elderly clients, has suspended service to its six or seven clients in Wuhan — after arranging for their families to take care of them. The company has 70 clients in the southern city of Shenzhen, where the virus has yet to strike. But worried clients there are already telling caregivers to avoid public transportation. “The clients are saying, ‘Take a taxi so you’re not at risk’” of infection, said company spokesman Dan Wieberg.

At family-owned Rockstar Wigs in Houston, the operations manager, Anna Reger, said she worries that “this could really put us behind this year.”

The company’s wigs, which range from platinum drag queen classics to neon Halloween specials, are hand-stitched with custom designs and special fibers in several Chinese factories where work is currently on hold.

Reger said the company typically starts on thousands of wigs right after Chinese New Year, seeking to be well stocked throughout the year and especially in time for Halloween. She said she’s hoping Chinese authorities can resolve the problem soon.

“I’m not going to let it stress me until we know what we’re dealing with.”

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The outbreak arrives just after the United States and China reached a truce in an 18-month trade war that involved the two world's two biggest economies burying each other's products in tariffs.

Stuart Shulman, president of Synchronis Medical in Ann Arbor, Michigan, said the Wuhan shutdown is "the double whammy." Already reeling from tariffs that have devoured as much as 30% of his profits, he now may not have any workers at the Chinese factory where medical gowns are cut and sewn.

"The timing is so catastrophic. I don't think a lot of people understand the situation," Shulman said. Because workers have left for the new year holiday, they may not be able to get back to work.

Restrictions on travel and fears about flying to the region could take a toll on demand for oil, gasoline and jet fuel. The suspension of public transportation services and quarantine enacted Thursday could cause a short-lived oil demand drop of 50,000 to 70,000 barrels per day in the Hubei province, according to an analysis from S&P Global Platts.

Global oil demand is likely to drop by 150,000 barrels per day in the next two months, but "if a significant economic slowdown were to ensue as a result of the virus spreading, then the overall demand impact could exceed the 700,000 barrels per day," said Claudio Galimberti, head of demand, refining and agriculture analytics at S&P Global Platts.

The SARS outbreak in 2003 led to a drop of 300,000 barrels of oil per day during the height of the epidemic.

Wiseman reported from Washington and Mendoza from San Jose, California.

AP writers Tom Krisher in Detroit, Alexandra Olson and Cathy Bussewitz in New York and Dake Kang in Beijing contributed to this report.

## Trump touts logo for new Space Force, with nod to Star Trek

By **ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon's new U.S. Space Force is not Star Trek's Starfleet Command, but their logos bear a striking similarity.

President Donald Trump unveiled the Space Force logo Friday, writing on Twitter that he had consulted with military leaders and designers before presenting the blue-and-white symbol, which features an arrowhead shape centered on a planetary background and encircled by the words, "United States Space Force" and "Department of the Air Force."

The logo, which bears the date 2019 in Roman numerals, also is similar in design to that of Air Force Space Command, from which Space Force was created by legislation that Trump signed in last month.

Space Force is the first new military service since the Air Force was created in 1947. It is meant mainly to improve protection of U.S. satellites and other space assets, rather than to put warriors in orbit to conduct combat in outer space. The idea became a regular applause line for Trump at his political rallies. He originally wanted a Space Force that was "separate but equal" to the Army, Navy and Air Force, but instead Congress made it part of the Department of the Air Force.

"After consultation with our Great Military Leaders, designers, and others, I am pleased to present the new logo for the United States Space Force, the Sixth Branch of our Magnificent Military!" Trump wrote.

George Takei, who played Mr. Sulu in the original "Star Trek" TV series and films, tweeted in response, "Ahem. We are expecting some royalties from this."

## Pentagon: 34 troops suffered brain injuries in Iran strike

By **ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon disclosed on Friday that 34 U.S. service members suffered traumatic brain injuries in Iran's missile strike this month on an Iraqi air base, and although half have returned to work, the casualty total belies President Donald Trump's initial claim that no Americans were harmed. He later characterized the injuries as "not very serious."

Eight of the injured arrived in the United States on Friday from Germany, where they and nine others

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had been flown days after the Jan. 8 missile strike on Iraq's Ain al-Asad air base. The nine still in Germany are receiving treatment and evaluation at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, the largest U.S. military hospital outside the continental United States.

Jonathan Hoffman, the chief Pentagon spokesman, said the eight in the U.S. will be treated at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, or at their home bases. The exact nature of their injuries and their service and unit affiliations were not disclosed.

Trump had initially said he was told that no troops had been injured in the strike, which Iran carried out as retaliation for a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad that killed Iran's most powerful general, Qassem Soleimani, on Jan. 3. The military said symptoms of concussion or traumatic brain injury were not immediately reported after the strike and in some cases became known days later. Many were in bunkers before nearly a dozen Iranian ballistic missiles exploded.

The question of American casualties took on added importance at the time of the Iranian strike because the degree of damage was seen as influencing a U.S. decision on whether to counterattack and risk a broader war with Iran. Trump chose not to retaliate, and the Iranians then indicated their strike was sufficient for the time being. Tensions have since eased.

After the Pentagon reported on Jan. 17 that 11 service members had been evacuated from Iraq with concussion-like symptoms, Trump said, "I heard they had headaches and a couple of other things ... and I can report it is not very serious." He said he did not consider the injuries to be as severe as those suffered by troops who were hit by roadside bombs in Iraq.

Sen. Jack Reed, a Rhode Island Democrat and former Army Ranger, called on Trump to apologize.

"TBI is a serious matter," Reed said in a statement. "It is not a 'headache,' and it's plain wrong for President Trump to diminish their wounds. He may not have meant to disrespect them, but President Trump's comments were an insult to our troops. He owes them an apology."

Traumatic brain injury, or TBI, has become a bigger concern for the military in recent years as medical science improves its understanding of its causes and effects on brain function. It can involve varying degrees of impairment of thinking, memory, vision, hearing and other functions. The severity and duration of the injury can vary widely.

The Defense Department has said more than 375,000 incidents of TBI occurred in the military between the years 2000 and 2018.

Jefferson Kinney, a neuroscience researcher at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, where he is chair of the department of brain health, said Friday that much remains to be learned about TBI, including its effects on behavior.

"It depends a lot on how severe the damage is and where the damage is," among other factors, he said. "There is huge variability across individuals. Some people will undergo a trauma that they seem to recover from very quickly, and others seem to be much more impacted by it for a longer duration."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says a severe TBI may lead to death or result in an extended period of coma or amnesia.

Hoffman's disclosure that 34 had been diagnosed with TBI was the first official update of the number injured since the Pentagon announced the evacuation of the first 11. On Jan. 21, officials said more had been sent out of Iraq for further diagnosis and treatment, but the Pentagon declined to provide firm figures or say whether any had been returned to duty.

Hoffman said that of the 34 with TBI, 18 were evacuated from Iraq to U.S. medical facilities in Germany



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and Kuwait, and 16 stayed in Iraq. The one American sent to Kuwait has since returned to duty in Iraq. All 16 who stayed in Iraq have since returned to duty there, Hoffman said.

No one was killed in the attack on Ain al-Asad, even though the U.S. had no missile defense systems there to protect from potential attack. Hoffman said Friday that deploying one or more Patriot anti-missile systems to Iraq is among options now being weighed by military commanders. The U.S. had deployed numerous Patriot systems to other countries in the region as protection against Iranian missile attack, including in Saudi Arabia, but a strike on Iraq was seen as less likely.

Some members of Congress this week pressed the Pentagon for more clarity on the scope of the TBI cases resulting from the Iranian attack. Rep. Bill Pascrell, D-N.J., founder of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, wrote to senior Pentagon officials on Thursday requesting additional details on casualties from the attack.

On Friday morning, Defense Secretary Mark Esper directed the Pentagon's acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, Matthew Donovan, to begin working with the staff of the Joint Chiefs to review how military injuries are tracked and reported — not just TBI cases but battlefield injuries of all kinds, Hoffman told reporters.

"The goal is to be as transparent, accurate, and to provide the American people and our service members with the best information about the tremendous sacrifices our war fighters make," Hoffman said.

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Associated Press writer Luran Neergaard contributed to this report.

## Opioid victims can begin filing claims against Purdue Pharma

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

State and local governments have been leading the legal fight against the opioid industry, seeking payouts to help them deal with the fallout from the nation's addiction crisis. Average Americans are about to get their shot.

On Friday, the federal judge overseeing the bankruptcy case of Purdue Pharma set a June 30 deadline to file a claim against the company. That includes governments, entities such as hospitals and, for the first time, individuals who have personal injury claims.

It's not clear how much money might be at stake. Purdue reached an agreement with some states and local governments that could be worth more than \$10 billion over time as part of its bankruptcy filing. But Judge Robert Drain emphasized during the hearing in White Plains, New York, that no final settlement is in place.

Once a settlement and restructuring deal for Purdue is approved, the next step will be deciding how to divide the company's assets. There is no guarantee those who became addicted to opioids or their families would receive any money, and the judge emphasized that the claims would be open only to people who believe they were harmed by Purdue's products, not opioids generally. Still, lawyers for plaintiffs say people should file claims even if they're not sure Purdue's drugs were involved in their injuries.

Dede Yoder of Norwalk, Connecticut, is among those who plan to file. Her son, Christopher, was prescribed a 30-day supply of painkillers, including OxyContin, during a series of surgeries when he was 13 and 14 years old.

He died in 2017 at age 21 of a heroin overdose after years of rehab and relapses. His mother is now on a committee of victims seeking input in the process.

"I spent my whole retirement. I probably spent almost \$200,000 on rehab and doctors," she said. "I would like to get my retirement back; I'm not looking for this huge payoff."

In bankruptcy proceedings, notices for claim deadlines are usually made in ads in publications or in letters mailed to people who might be eligible to file. Purdue's case is different because so many people might be able to assert legal damages against the company.

Prescription and illicit opioids have been linked to more than 400,000 deaths in the U.S. since 2000. Perhaps millions of other people have struggled with addiction to them, and an estimated 500,000 children were born in opioid withdrawal.

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Purdue, a privately held company based in Stamford, Connecticut, plans to spend \$23.8 million to advertise the claim-filing deadline, an unusually large amount to notify potential creditors in a bankruptcy case.

The ad campaign is intended to reach 95% of U.S. adults, with ads in newspapers, movie theaters and on Facebook. Billboards will promote the deadline in four hard-hit states: Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia. The budget also includes hiring a public relations firm to encourage news outlets to report on the deadline and the website to file claims.

The publicity push also is getting help from victims themselves.

Another member of the victims' committee, 33-year-old Garrett Hade, said he has been sober for nearly five years after a long odyssey through addiction that began with OxyContin when he was a teenager in Florida. He said he would donate any money he receives from Purdue.

Now, as an organizer with the Recovery Advocacy Project, he said he's telling people that they will be able to make claims.

"People need to know that as a person there is some recourse out there," said Hade, who now lives in Las Vegas.

Also on Friday, the bankruptcy judge said he would allow Purdue CEO Craig Landau to collect a bonus this year up to \$1.3 million, on top of his \$2.6 million salary. Landau had previously agreed to reduce his bonus to that amount and delay it. A group of states continued to object to the bonus.

Follow Mulvihill at <http://www.twitter.com/geoffmulvihill>

## Actress Rosie Perez says she was told of Weinstein rape

By TOM HAYS, MICHAEL R. SISAK and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — "Do the Right Thing" actress Rosie Perez testified Friday that fellow screen star Anabella Sciorra told her in the mid-1990s that Harvey Weinstein had raped her but that she couldn't go to the police because "he'd destroy me."

Taking the stand at the former Hollywood mogul's rape trial, Perez said her friend Sciorra had told at some point in 1993, her voice shaking on the phone, that something had happened to her: "I think it was rape."

Perez said she asked if Sciorra knew who had attacked her, but Sciorra wouldn't say at the time. But months later, on another phone call from London, she said Weinstein was harassing her and she was scared, Perez said.

"I said, 'He's the one that raped you,'" and they both began crying, Perez testified.

"Please go to the police," Perez said she told her friend. She said Sciorra responded: "I can't — he'd destroy me."

On Thursday, Sciorra told jurors that the movie producer pushed his way into her New York apartment, pinned her on a bed and forced himself on her in 1993 or 1994. She said Perez was one of a few people she told about the encounter before coming forward publicly in 2017.

Weinstein denies ever having nonconsensual sex. His lawyers said Perez shouldn't be allowed to testify, but Judge James Burke decided to allow it.

Defense lawyer Damon Cheronis pressed Perez on why she didn't go to police, or to Sciorra's home, when the actress first told her about the alleged assault.

"Because I was being respectful," Perez said.

Weinstein, the studio boss whose downfall energized the #MeToo movement, is charged with forcibly performing oral sex on former production assistant Mimi Haleyi in his New York apartment in 2006 and raping an aspiring actress in a New York hotel room in 2013. Sciorra is among four additional accusers who are expected to testify against him as part of an effort by prosecutors to show that Weinstein made a habit of preying on women.

The 67-year-old producer of such Oscar-winning movies as "Chicago" and "The King's Speech" could get life in prison if convicted.

Sciorra, 59, is best known for her work on "The Sopranos." Perez, 55, was in 1989's "Do the Right Thing"



and 1993's "Fearless," which brought her an Oscar nomination for best supporting actress.

Sciorra told the jury that she spiraled into cutting herself and drinking heavily after the alleged rape. On Friday, friend and fashion model Kara Young testified that a fidgety Sciorra "seemed a mess," with long cuts on her legs, when the two watched the Academy Awards together in 1994.

Weinstein's lawyers seized on Sciorra's actions after the alleged assault, asking such questions as why Sciorra made the 1997 Weinstein-produced film "Cop Land" if he had raped her a few years earlier. Sciorra said she wasn't aware of Weinstein's involvement until she had agreed to appear in the movie.

The defense has also questioned why Weinstein's accusers stayed in friendly contact for years with a man they say had assaulted them. Prosecutors sought to give jurors some answers Friday from a forensic psychiatrist who testified about the same topic at the Pennsylvania trial that led to Bill Cosby's 2018 conviction on charges of sexually assaulting a woman.

Dr. Barbara Ziv told Weinstein's jury of seven men and five women that most sex-assault victims continue to have contact with their attackers, who often threaten retaliation if the victims tell anyone what happened.

Victims are "hoping that this is just an aberration," she said, and they tell themselves: "I can put it in a box and forget about it. I don't want it to get worse. ... I can handle this physical trauma, but God forbid this ruins the rest of my life."

Victims can end up blaming themselves "without knowing that their behavior is entirely expected," said Ziv, who has described herself as an expert on "sexual assault victim behavior" who has evaluated more than 1,000 such people.

She did not, however, evaluate any of Weinstein's accusers, and his lawyers seized on that point.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they have been victims of sexual assault, unless they come forward publicly, as Sciorra and others have done.

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## Schiff sets tone of impeachment case, says 'right matters'

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For a few gripping minutes, Rep. Adam Schiff, the lead impeachment prosecutor against President Donald Trump, had made the restless Senate snap to attention.

Voice cracking as he spoke, Schiff made an impassioned plea late Thursday for removing Trump from office, framing the choice in moral terms. "If right doesn't matter, we're lost," he said.

"You know you can't trust this president do what's right for this country," Schiff said. "You can trust he will do what's right for Donald Trump. He'll do it now. He's done it before. He'll do it for the next several months, he'll do it in the election if he's allowed to. This is why if you find him guilty you must find that he should be removed. Because right matters."

Reactions to the speech were as divided as the country. Democrats gushed, tweeting glowing words about the California Democrat's rousing late-night speech. Republicans said they were unconvinced, and strenuously rejected the idea that Trump can't be trusted.

Still, even some Republicans gave Schiff grudging respect for the skill of his arguments.

"I thought he was passionate and his case has been well articulated," said South Dakota Sen. John Thune, the No. 2 Senate Republican. Still, he added, "in the end it's all going to come down to the facts, the law and the what people think is the threshold for what's an impeachable offense."

Schiff is unlikely to win over enough GOP senators to convict Trump, as most are solidly supporting the president. But for his articulate presentations to the Senate he has won praise from some senators like South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who shook his hand and told him he was doing a good job after the first day of House arguments.

Schiff is the face of the House's impeachment case against Trump, which has made him the principal target of Trump's ire. Though he has six managers by his side, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi appointed

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Schiff, her confidant, as the lead impeachment manager. He is setting the tone of the prosecution's case, working methodically to convince even his most ardent detractors that Trump deserves to be removed from office.

"In a way I do feel like I'm introducing myself to a number of the senators," Schiff said in an interview with The Associated Press before arguments resumed on Thursday. He said many of them are familiar only with conservative criticism of him, and they are "finding I'm not the demon that I'm portrayed as on Fox."

Schiff said he wishes that the Graham exchange wasn't caught on camera, "because it was nice to have a private moment. And I don't want to discourage that kind of thing. But I very much appreciated his comments."

Though Graham has ridiculed the case against the Republican president and heaped scorn on Democrats like Schiff, he said on Thursday he believes the California Democrat is "well spoken" and "did a good job of creating a tapestry, taking bits and pieces of evidence and emails and giving a rhetorical flourish ... sometimes effectively, sometimes a little over the top."

Other Republicans had similar words. Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt said the Democrats had "admirable presentations," even though he found them repetitive and said he didn't learn much new. Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst says she's "not a fan" of Schiff, but believes he has been presenting a "calm, level case" against the president.

Graham, who was an impeachment manager himself in President Bill Clinton's 1999 trial, again complimented the House impeachment managers Friday on "the way they have conducted themselves," but said he was less impressed with Schiff's closing speech on Thursday evening.

"He told me that I have to get rid of this president now, because I can't trust him to do what's best for the country because he'll only do what's best for Donald Trump," Graham said. "That decision needs to be made by the voters."

Schiff, who represents parts of Hollywood, has been a frequent target of conservatives since the then GOP-led House Intelligence Committee started investigating Trump's ties to Russia in the 2016 election. He was frequently on television questioning Trump's actions.

The criticism intensified, though, when Democrats took the House majority in early 2019 and he became chairman of the intelligence panel. And it reached a full-on roar as he took charge of the impeachment investigation of Trump's dealings with Ukraine last fall.

Trump has trained his ire on the congressman on Twitter and elsewhere, alternatively calling him "shifty," "sleazy," and "liddle." He has also turned his name into a vulgarity, occasionally calling him "Schitt" on Twitter, and dubbed him "pencil neck" at a campaign rally. Trump tweeted about Schiff only a handful of times in 2017 and 2018, but hundreds of times since Democrats gained the House majority.

In contrast to the president, Schiff has tried to set a non-combative tone on the Senate floor, with conciliatory words to the Senate. He said at the start of his arguments on Wednesday that he was "deeply grateful" for their attention and understands that it's hard to sit and listen four hours on end.

His appeals came hours after Chief Justice John Roberts, who is presiding, admonished both the House managers and Trump's defense team for using language "that is not conducive to civil discourse."

Roberts' comments came around 1 a.m. Wednesday after another impeachment manager, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, charged that the White House lawyers were lying and that GOP senators' votes against witnesses were "treacherous." Trump's defense team responded that Nadler should apologize to the president and the American people.

The next morning, before the trial resumed, the impeachment managers gathered for a news conference. When asked about Roberts' comments, Schiff was the only one who spoke. "You're going to have tempers flare" when trials go into the wee hours, Schiff said, and that happens in every courtroom in America.

"But we are going to try to keep focused on the facts," Schiff said. "The president's team would like nothing more than to provoke a bitter conflict."

Schiff told The AP on Thursday that when talking on the Senate floor, he is trying not to make the case personal and he wants to "show respect for the senators and for the chief justice, present the evidence, make the appeals to have a fair trial, and that's the best I can do."

His House GOP colleagues were less complimentary than the senators.

"I don't agree with Lindsey Graham's analysis that they're doing a good job," said North Carolina Rep. Mark Meadows, one of several Republican House members who are consulting with the White House lawyers. "I've had to look in the cabinet for a bottle of No-Doz. When you look at Adam Schiff's performance, I think what we all have come to understand is, that's exactly what it is, it's a performance."

Senate Democrats, on the other hand, have been thrilled. Michigan Sen. Debbie Stabenow said Thursday evening that "I think you could have heard a pin drop" when Schiff gave his closing speech.

Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy tweeted that senators leaving for the night "were awestruck."

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Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

## **AP FACT CHECK: Trump's false assurance about troops in Iraq**

**By CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — At first, President Donald Trump stated inaccurately that no U.S. troops were injured in the Iranian missile attack against them in Iraq. Then he prematurely minimized those injuries as doctors tried to determine how severe they were.

On Friday, the Pentagon said that in fact, 34 troops suffered traumatic brain injuries in the attack and half remain under medical observation in Germany or back in the U.S. more than two weeks later.

TRUMP, Jan. 8: "Good morning. I'm pleased to inform you: The American people should be extremely grateful and happy no Americans were harmed in last night's attack by the Iranian regime. We suffered no casualties, all of our soldiers are safe, and only minimal damage was sustained at our military bases." — statement delivered the morning after the Iranian missile attack on bases hosting U.S. troops in Iraq.

TRUMP, Jan. 9, as if in dialogue with an aide after the Iranian attack: "I said how many? How many died? How many were wounded? Sir, none. None. Pretty good warning system. None. How many were hurt? None, sir. So we didn't do anything." — Toledo, Ohio, rally, a day before the first wounded troops were evacuated from Iraq.

TRUMP, Wednesday: "I heard they had headaches and a couple of other things ... and I can report it is not very serious. ... No, I don't consider them very serious injuries relative to other injuries that I've seen. ... No, I do not consider that to be bad injuries, no." — press conference in Davos, Switzerland.

THE FACTS: Trump had no basis for stating this week — after medical evacuations of wounded troops — that the injuries that surfaced were in the realm of mere headaches. And in the immediate aftermath of the attack, his categorical statement that no one was hurt soon proved wrong.

It took several days for the Pentagon to understand it had casualties requiring further treatment. Meantime Trump declared all troops safe and unhurt as recently as the night before the first wounded soldiers were evacuated from Iraq for more treatment and screening than could be done there.

Altogether, of the 34 service members diagnosed with traumatic brain injury, 17 were evacuated from Iraq to U.S. medical facilities in Germany, where nine remain while eight others have been transported to the U.S. for further observation or treatment, said Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman.

One American taken to Kuwait for treatment has returned to duty in Iraq as have the 16 who were also diagnosed with traumatic brain injury and did not leave Iraq, he said.

The effects of traumatic brain injury can vary from short-term harm to life-long debilitation or death, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In 2014 alone, traumatic brain injuries resulted in about 288,000 hospitalizations and were related to nearly 57,000 deaths in the U.S.

In playing down the injuries in his press conference Wednesday, Trump said he has seen much worse when visiting wounded troops: "people with no legs and with no arms."

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Associated Press writers Robert Burns and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

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EDITOR'S NOTE — A look at the veracity of claims by political figures.

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## Legal chaos in Poland deepens, posing major challenge for EU

By VANESSA GERA and MONIKA SCISLOWSKA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Legal chaos has deepened dramatically in Poland, with the government and the country's high court judges clashing over who administers justice — a rift that some experts say is an assault on the young democracy and could lead to a break from the European Union.

The right-wing populist governing party has tried to take control of Poland's court system ever since it won power in 2015, steadily eroding the courts' independence from politics.

The party took two major steps Thursday toward assuming full sway over the legal system: passing legislation that allows the government to fire judges whose rulings it does not like and expressing open defiance of a Supreme Court resolution that condemned some judges' appointments as illegitimate.

The European Union expressed its deep concerns Friday as Poland's government continues to defy the laws and standards that it agreed to uphold when it joined in 2004.

Some European legal scholars warn that the developments threaten the entire EU legal system. National courts in the 28 EU member countries recognize the decisions of courts in the other nations on everything from European arrest warrants, child custody issues and commercial law.

But as Poland's court system becomes increasingly politicized, there are fears that Polish judges will no longer operate as objective arbitrators and will face pressure to issue rulings to the government's liking.

In a resolution, 60 members of the Supreme Court, which largely has managed to maintain independence from the government, said judges are illegitimate if appointed by a judiciary council that the ruling party has politicized.

The justice minister, Zbigniew Ziobro, said the high court's action was "a gross violation of the law, and its so-called resolution has no legal effects." It's a sentiment that legal experts don't share.

Several courts canceled some hearings Friday because of uncertainty over whether some judges had the authority to make rulings. Other judges said it's their duty to keep working.

In Warsaw, the Supreme Court had nine hearings canceled because the presiding judge had been appointed in the contested way and she said any ruling handed down could be questioned.

The Supreme Court says the judiciary council is illegitimate because its members are directly appointed by the government, violating judicial independence. The EU's top court, the European Court of Justice, has warned that the new judicial body could have that effect.

Also Thursday, the lower house of Parliament passed legislation allowing politicians to fire judges who rule against the government, even if they adhere to EU law.

Critics call it a "muzzle law," and it has been condemned by the EU, the United Nations and the Council of Europe, the continent's largest human rights body. Amnesty International has said the law would end the separation of powers in Poland.

Polish constitutional expert Bogna Baczyńska said the EU legal framework ensures that citizens in all member states are guaranteed equal rights and a breach by a member country breaks the common foundation.

She believes Poland will see its EU funding reduced because the "EU will not keep sponsoring a member that is destroying its foundations, its roots."

She said that judges are being put under "terrible, hostile pressure."

Laurent Pech, a professor of European law at Middlesex University in London, tweeted that "Poland is no longer a democratic regime" and that a "process of de facto exit from EU legal order has begun."

Pech told reporters in Warsaw last week that doubts about judges' independence also will negatively affect foreign investment in Poland.

"No one will invest in a country where essentially the rulings of the Court of Justice regarding the judicial

branch are simply openly ignored," Pech added.

The legislation goes next to President Andrzej Duda, who is expected to sign it. He argued that the justice system is deeply flawed and needs reform. He also asserted that the EU does not have the right to dictate to Poland how to run its justice system.

"We will not be told, in foreign languages, what kind of system we should have in Poland and how Poland's affairs should be taken care of," Duda said.

The government argued early in its tenure that it needed to purge judges who were part of a privileged "caste," including holdovers from the communist era.

Critics say very few judges are still working who began under communist rule, which ended 30 years ago. Lately, the government has said it seeks to end "anarchy" in the system, which opponents say has been triggered by the government itself.

A retired chief justice of Poland's Constitutional Court, Andrzej Rzeplinski, also thinks the government's interference with the courts and its hostility to European input signals the country is headed for a departure from the EU.

Since the ruling party took power in 2015, "we live in a constantly fueled conflict," Rzeplinski told the Onet.pl news portal. "The next stage will be to take Poland out of the EU."

## **Iraqis rally against US troops, demanding they leave**

**By QASSEM ABDUL-ZAHRA and SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Waving national flags and banners denouncing U.S. President Donald Trump, tens of thousands of Iraqis marched peacefully through Baghdad on Friday to demand the ouster of U.S. troops from their country in a protest organized by a populist Shiite cleric.

Later Friday night, two anti-government protesters were shot and killed by security forces in separate demonstrations a few kilometers (miles) from where the big anti-U.S. rally had taken place, two medical officials and one security official said.

The rally by followers of Muqtada al-Sadr and Iranian-backed militias came amid heightened tensions following a U.S. drone strike earlier this month that killed a top Iranian general in the Iraqi capital, fanning anti-U.S. sentiment.

There were no official estimates of the turnout and organizers gave varying figures, but it clearly fell short of the "million-man" march that had been called for by al-Sadr.

Officials and experts said the rally was the cleric's attempt to capitalize on brewing anti-American feeling and show he had the upper hand among Iraqis as political elites wrangle over who should be the next prime minister.

Large crowds gathered on the Muslim day of prayer as loudspeakers blasted, "No, no America!" at a central square. Some of al-Sadr's followers were shrouded in white capes to symbolize the fact that they were ready to die for the cause.

"Hey Trump! We will not allow you to turn Iraq into a battlefield," read one banner. A child held up a poster reading, "Death to America. Death to Israel."

Apparently seeking to show control, his supporters did not clash with the heavy security presence or target the separate, anti-government protests in neighboring Tahrir Square, a possibility feared by activists.

In his weekly Friday sermon, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most revered Shiite cleric, called on political parties stop stalling and move the talks forward.

"The formation of the new government is constitutionally long overdue, it is necessary for the various parties concerned to cooperate," al-Sistani said in a sermon delivered via a representative, "it is an important step toward resolving the current crisis."

Roads and bridges leading to the heavily fortified Green Zone, the seat of Iraq's government and home to several foreign diplomatic compounds including the U.S. Embassy, were barricaded by concrete barriers. Iraqi security forces stood guard, blocking access to the gates of the zone.

The protesters, mostly Shiites from the capital but also from Iraq's southern provinces, walked to an

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assembly point in the Jadriya neighborhood.

Al-Sadr, whose party won the most seats in the May 2018 parliamentary elections, had called the rally to demand the withdrawal of American troops following the Jan. 3 U.S. drone strike near Baghdad's airport that killed top Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and senior Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. The killing drew the ire of Iraqi officials from across the political spectrum.

According to U.S. military officials, rather than draw down, Americans have poured 20,000 additional troops in the Middle East to counter what Washington describes as an escalating threat from Iran. There are about 5,200 U.S. troops in Iraq, where they help train and assist Iraqi forces in the fight against the Islamic State group.

Iran has long sought the withdrawal of American forces from neighboring Iraq, but the U.S. strike that killed Soleimani in Baghdad has added new impetus to the effort.

In a statement Friday, al-Sadr called for canceling existing security agreements, closing U.S. military bases, ending the work of American security companies and shutting off access to Iraqi airspace.

If the conditions are met, "the resistance will temporarily stop until the last soldier leaves Iraq," al-Sadr said, referring to American troops.

Al-Sadr, whose followers fought U.S. troops after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion to oust dictator Saddam Hussein, derives political capital from his ability to call on supporters to clog streets and paralyze all movement in Baghdad.

The rally came at a critical time as rival political blocs are jockeying over the selection of a prime minister to replace outgoing Adel Abdul-Mahdi. It was supported by mainstream Shiite parties, including that of al-Sadr's political rival Hadi al-Ameri, who heads the Fatah bloc in parliament, as well as the Popular Mobilization Units, an umbrella group comprised of an array of militias, including Iran-backed groups.

Al-Sadr "proved once again he can amass the crowds to take them to the street, cleverly prevented any targeting of protesters in Tahrir Square," tweeted Farhad Alaadin, head of the Iraqi Advisory Council and a former presidential adviser.

In response to a public outcry over the U.S. airstrike that killed Soleimani and al-Muhandis, parliament passed a nonbinding resolution calling on the government to expel foreign troops. Kurdish and most Sunni lawmakers boycotted the vote.

"The American forces should leave," said an 18-year-old protester, Amer Saad. "I am ready to fight against the Americans if Muqtada al-Sadr asks us."

Police and militiamen of the Popular Mobilization Units also closed off roads leading to the protest site, in both the Karada and Jadriya neighborhoods.

A different set of protesters in Tahrir Square, who have been carrying out separate demonstrations since October critical of government corruption, high unemployment and Iranian influence in Iraqi politics, carefully watched al-Sadr's anti-U.S. rally, but no confrontation took place.

They remained at their sit-in tents in the square, where they have been camped out for months, after Friday's anti-U.S. demonstration ended.

After nightfall, two of the anti-government protesters were shot and killed and at least 26 were wounded when security forces opened fire with live ammunition to disperse the crowds, officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The protesters had clashed with the forces near a key highway that connects areas east of the Tigris River and has been a focus of recent violence.

"I am not against the Sadrist movement's demonstrations today, but if Muqtada asks for the exit of the Americans and nonintervention, he should raise the same slogan against Iranian interference, to be honest," anti-government protester Yahya Mohammed said earlier in the day of the anti-U.S. crowds..

In neighboring Iran, Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said the Baghdad march was a "countdown" to expelling U.S. forces. "It indicated that Iraqi people are the flagship on the path of expelling the U.S. from the region," he said.

Cleric Mohammad Hassan Abutorabifard who led Friday prayers in the Iranian capital, Tehran, told wor-

shippers that Iraqis at the rally "stood by Iranians" following Soleimani's killing.

"The legitimacy of the West-appointed puppet rulers in the region has totally collapsed," he said.

Associated Press writers Nasser Karimi in Tehran, Iran, and Murtada Faraj in Baghdad contributed.

## 6 killed in Germany shooting, including suspect's parents

BERLIN (AP) — Six people were killed and another two wounded in a shooting in the southwestern German town of Rot am See on Friday, police said. The suspect's parents were among the dead and the other victims also were believed to be relatives.

A man called police shortly after 12:45 p.m. (1145 GMT) and told them he had killed several people, regional police chief Reiner Moeller said at a news conference.

Police kept the man on the line and, when they arrived at the scene several minutes later, arrested a 26-year-old German national as the suspect in the slayings, Moeller said.

Officers found the bodies of six people — three women and three men, ages 36 to 69 — in and behind a building where a bar is located.

Another two people were hurt, and one of them has life-threatening injuries, Moeller said. The suspect also threatened two children, ages 12 and 14.

The suspect had a license to own firearms as a shooting club member, Moeller said. Authorities believe he used a semi-automatic pistol.

"We can't say anything so far about the motive," he said. "Because of the victims and the wounded, we believe it was a family drama, since according to what we know at present all were related to each other."

The suspect's mother and father were among the dead, the police chief said. Police were working to clear up how the others were related.

They planned to question the suspect and were waiting for his lawyer.

Rot am See is located about 170 kilometers (105 miles) northwest of Munich. It is a town of some 5,300 people in a rural area of Baden-Wuerttemberg state.

## McGregor says 'Star Wars' TV series still on despite reports

By AMANDA LEE MYERS Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ewan McGregor says any delay in completing work on in his new Obi-Wan Kenobi "Star Wars" streaming series will be brief and is aimed at making it better.

McGregor addressed trade reports that the Disney Plus series had been placed on hold at an event Thursday promoting his latest film "Birds of Prey."

"It's only just slid back a bit," McGregor told The Associated Press. "But we're still shooting it. I think it'll still be aired when it was meant to be and I'm really excited about it."

The series will focus on Kenobi, a Jedi master, in the years before the events of the first "Star Wars" film. Alec Guinness played Kenobi in the original film, introducing millions to the franchise's mystical power, The Force.

McGregor played a young Kenobi during his early years a Jedi in three prequel films, beginning with 1999's "The Phantom Menace."

"The scripts are excellent and they just want them to be better, and so we just pushed it back," McGregor said of the new series. "It'll be fun to play again."

A return to the role for McGregor has been long rumored, and was announced last year at Disney's D23 Expo. McGregor has said he felt somewhat tortured by all the secrecy around the project.

The show is scheduled to become the second live-action "Star Wars" series on Disney Plus. "The Mandalorian" has been a hit for the new streaming service, introducing audiences to new Star Wars characters, including the adorable, memeable Baby Yoda.

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2020. There are 341 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 25, 1915, America's first official transcontinental telephone call took place as Alexander Graham Bell, who was in New York, spoke to his former assistant, Thomas Watson, who was in San Francisco, over a line set up by American Telephone & Telegraph.

On this date:

In 1863, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln accepted Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside's resignation as commander of the Army of the Potomac and replaced him with Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker.

In 1924, the first Winter Olympic Games opened in Chamonix (shah-moh-NEE'), France.

In 1945, the World War II Battle of the Bulge ended as German forces were pushed back to their original positions. Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first community to add fluoride to its public water supply.

In 1947, gangster Al Capone died in Miami Beach, Florida, at age 48.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy held the first presidential news conference to be carried live on radio and television.

In 1971, Charles Manson and three women followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people, including actress Sharon Tate.

In 1981, the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States.

In 1990, an Avianca Boeing 707 ran out of fuel and crashed in Cove Neck, Long Island, New York; 73 of the 158 people aboard were killed. Actress Ava Gardner died in London at age 67.

In 1993, a gunman shot and killed two CIA employees outside agency headquarters in Virginia (Pakistani national Mir Aimal Kansi was later tried and convicted of the shootings, and executed). Sears announced that it would no longer publish its famous century-old catalog.

In 1994, maintaining his innocence, singer Michael Jackson settled a child molestation lawsuit against him; terms were confidential, although the monetary figure was reportedly \$22 million.

In 1998, Pope John Paul II ended his historic journey to Cuba.

In 2017, President Donald Trump moved aggressively to tighten the nation's immigration controls, signing executive actions to jumpstart construction of his promised U.S.-Mexico border wall and cut federal grants for immigrant-protecting "sanctuary cities." Death claimed actress Mary Tyler Moore at age 80 and actor John Hurt at age 77.

Ten years ago: Iraq hanged Ali Hassan al-Majid (ah-LEE' hah-SAHN' ahl mah-ZHEED'), known as "Chemical Ali" for his role in gassing 5,000 people in a Kurdish village. An Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 crashed into the Mediterranean after taking off from Beirut in a fierce thunderstorm; all 90 people aboard were killed. Director James Cameron's sci-fi spectacle "Avatar" overtook his shipwreck saga "Titanic" to become the world's highest-grossing film.

Five years ago: The radical left-wing Syriza party rode an anti-austerity platform to victory in Greece's parliamentary elections, setting the stage for a showdown with international creditors. Party leader Alexis Tsipras (TSEE'-prahs) promised to end the "five years of humiliation and pain" that Greece had endured since an international bailout saved it from bankruptcy in 2010. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe offered condolences to the family and friends of Haruna Yukawa, a 42-year-old adventurer taken hostage in Syria, and said a video purporting to show that he had been killed was likely authentic. "Birdman" won best ensemble from the Screen Actors Guild, a day after winning the top honor at the Producer Guild Awards.

One year ago: President Donald Trump signed a bill to reopen the government for three weeks, backing down from his demand that Congress first give him money for his border wall. President Trump's confidant Roger Stone was arrested by the FBI in a pre-dawn raid at his Florida home and charged with lying about his pursuit of Russian-hacked emails damaging to Hillary Clinton's 2016 election bid. (Stone was convicted in November 2019, on charges including lying to Congress and witness tampering; he is awaiting sentenc-



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ing in February.) A dam owned by a mining company collapsed in Brazil, unleashing a wave of toxic mud; more than 200 people were killed with dozens of others missing.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Claude Gray is 88. Actress Leigh Taylor-Young is 76. Actress Jenifer (cq) Lewis is 63. Country musician Mike Burch (River Road) is 54. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kina is 51. Actress China Kantner is 49. Actress Ana Ortiz is 49. Drummer Joe Sirois (sih-ROYS') (Mighty Mighty Bosstones) is 48. Musician Matt Odmark (OHD'-mark) (Jars of Clay) is 46. Actress Mia Kirshner is 45. Actress Christine Lakin is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Alicia (ah-LEE'-shuh) Keys is 40. Actor Michael Trevino is 35. Pop musician Calum Hood (5 Seconds to Summer) is 24. Actress Olivia Edward is 13.

Thought for Today: "A first-rate organizer is never in a hurry. He is never late. He always keeps up his sleeve a margin for the unexpected." — Arnold Bennett, English poet, author and critic (1867-1931).

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