

# Groton Daily Independent

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Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

“HAPPINESS ISN'T COMPLICATED. IT IS A HUMBLE STATE OF GRATITUDE FOR SIMPLE PLEASURES, TENDER MERCIES, RECOGNIZED BLESSINGS, AND INHERENT BEAUTY.”

-RICHELLE E. GOODRICH

**Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020**  
**Boys NEC-DAK12 Clash at Madison**  
**6:30 p.m.: Groton Area vs. SF Christian**

It's Girls Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM

 **Clark/Willow  
Lake Cyclones**   
**VS**  
**Groton Area Tigers**

6:30 p.m.: Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020 at Clark  
Livestream Sponsors are Locke Electric  
and the South Dakota Army National Guard

**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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## DeHoet, Doeden have double-doubles with Groton's win over Northwestern

Two Groton Area players had double-doubles in boys' basketball action played Monday night in Mellette. Brodyn DeHoet and Jonathan Doeden each had 19 points and 10 rebounds as the Tigers held off a stubborn Wildcat team for a 10-point win, 62-52. This was DeHoet's fourth straight game with a double-double.

The game was tied five times in the first quarter and there were two lead changes before the Tigers took an 18-13 lead. The Tigers were eight of 16 in shooting for 50 percent and Northwestern was five of 13 for 38 percent.

Northwestern scored six straight points in the second quarter to take the lead, 21-20, but Groton Area was quick to reclaim the lead, 22-21. Groton Area opened up nine-point lead, 34-25 and led it at half time, 35-29. In the second quarter, Groton Area was four of 15 in shooting for 27 percent and Northwestern was five of seven for 71 percent. A lot of free throws were shot in the first half with Groton Area making eight of 13 for 62 percent and Northwestern was seven of 12 for 58 percent.

Groton Area had a nine-point lead a few times in the third quarter and settled for a six-point advantage going into the fourth quarter. Groton Area was four of eight in shooting for 50 percent in the third quarter and Northwestern was five of 15 for 33 percent.

The Wildcats closed to within one in the fourth quarter, 46-45, and had chances to take the lead. At one point in the game, the Wildcats took four three-point attempts in a wild scramble for the ball before the Tigers finally came away with the rebound. Groton Area surged ahead down the stretch to open up a 12-point lead at 62-50, and went on to win, 62-52.

In the fourth quarter, Groton Area was five of 14 in shooting for 36 percent and Northwestern was five of 12 for 42 percent.

For the game, Groton Area was 17 of 43 in two-pointers for 40 percent, was five of 16 in three-pointers for 31 percent and was 13 of 21 from the line for 62 percent off of Northwestern's 19 team fouls. The Tigers had 11 turnovers and Northwestern had 10. Cade Guthmiller had four of the team's 13 assists, five of the team's 13 steals and had one blocked shot. Kaden Kurtz added 13 points and Austin Jones had two points.

Zech Clemens led the Wildcats with 24 points followed by Dalton Peterson with 18, Jace Haven had five, Jude Ortmeier had two, Hunter Schipke two and Sam Got one.

The Wildcats were 15 of 47 in shooting for 32 percent and was eight of 18 from the line off of Groton Area's 19 team fouls.

Northwestern won the junior varsity game, 36-32. Groton Area led for most of the game with the exception of a tie at 18. The Wildcats scored the last 10 points of the game to pull out the 36-32 win.

Lane Tietz had 10 points, Isaac Smith had seven, Chandler Larson, Lucas Simon and Tristan Traphagen each had three and Waytt Hearnen and Jayden Zak each had two points. Jude Ortmeier led the Wildcats with 14 points.

Groton Area won the C game, 39-17. Tate Larson led the Tigers with 13 points followed by Waytt Hearnen with 10, Jackson Cogley seven, Jordan Bjerke six, Cole Simon two and Cade Larson one.

Groton Area, now 9-0 on the season, will host Clark/Willow Lake on Friday.

All three games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The varsity game was sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center and the JV and C games were sponsored by Grain Solutions, LLC with Jesse Zak.

## **South Dakota has largest increase in Annual Health Insurance Premiums**

South Dakota had the 5th largest increase in healthcare spending per person at 51.79% over a 10-year period.

Our team of analysts looked at total annual premiums from 2013 compared to 2018 to see which states experienced the largest increase in average health insurance premiums, as well as healthcare expenditure data to see which states saw the largest increase in healthcare spending per capita from 2005 to 2014.

### Key Findings:

In 2013, South Dakota's total annual premium cost was \$5,876, rising to \$6,931 in 2018. That's a 17.95% increase over 6 years.

For employer based health plans, in 2013, South Dakota employees contributed an average of \$1347 per year on their premiums, while employers contributed \$4529. This means that in 2013, employees paid an average 22.92% of their total annual premium cost.

In 2018, South Dakota employees contributed an average of \$1541 per year on health premiums, while employers contributed \$5390. Employees paid an average 22.63% of total premium costs in that year.

South Dakota employee personal health premium costs have increased by 14.40% since 2013.

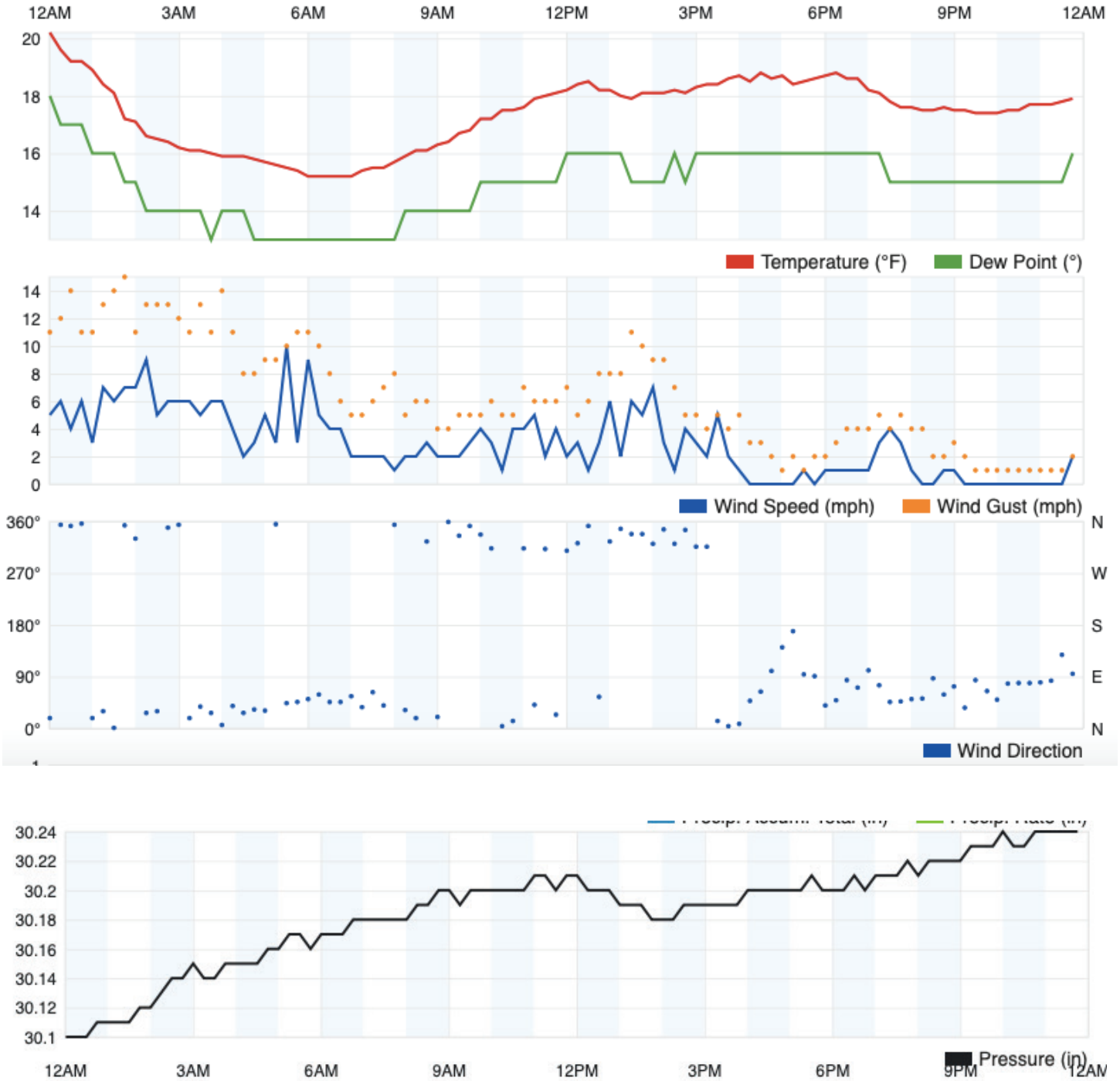
South Dakota employer contributions of health costs have increased by 19.01% since 2013.

North Dakota has similar rate hikes and costs

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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## Upcoming Events

### **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.)

### **Saturday, February 1, 2020**

Boys Varsity Basketball Classic - DAK12 vs. NEC at Madison (Groton Area vs. SF Christian at 6:30 p.m.)

Lewis and Clark Debate at Yankton

10:00am: Groton Wrestling Tournament

### **Monday, February 3, 2020**

6:00 p.m.: Combined 7th/8th grade boys basketball hosts Redfield

6:00 p.m.: Junior High Wrestling at Ipswich

6:30 p.m.: Girls' basketball at Northwestern - JV followed by varsity game

### **Tuesday, February 4, 2020**

5 p.m.: Boys 7th and 8th grade games at GHS Gym vs. Langford

Doubleheader basketball game hosts Langford Area. Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5 p.m., Girls' Varsity at 6:15 p.m. followed by the Boys Varsity.

### **Wednesday, February 5, 2020**

10:15 a.m.: MathCounts at Northern State University

### **Thursday, February 6, 2020**

6:30 p.m.: Girls Basketball at Tiospa Zina (JV followed by varsity)

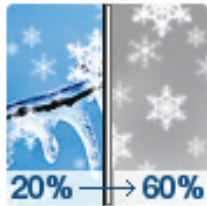
### **Friday, February 7, 2020**

Boys' Basketball hosts Tiospa Zina. 7th grade game at 3 p.m., 8th grade game at 4 p.m., junior varsity game at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game

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Today



Chance Winty  
Mix and  
Patchy Fog  
then Snow  
Likely

High: 26 °F

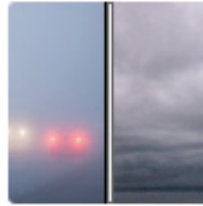
Tonight



Patchy Fog

Low: 21 °F

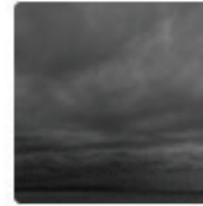
Wednesday



Patchy Fog  
then Cloudy

High: 29 °F

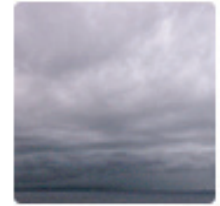
Wednesday  
Night



Cloudy

Low: 21 °F

Thursday



Cloudy

High: 29 °F



## Weather for Tuesday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup>



### Morning

Light snow. Areas of fog and/or freezing drizzle along/east of the James Valley too

### Afternoon

20 to 35°

Light snow possible. Sunshine along and west of the Missouri River

### Night

15 to 20°

Fog builds back in, particularly across central South Dakota

### Rest of Week

Above average temperatures continue. Light snow possible Thurs afternoon+evening

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD  
Updated: 1/28/2020 5:50 AM Central

Heads up for potentially slick conditions as light freezing drizzle and/or snow affect the area today (dusting of snow accumulation). The potential for more fog exists tonight, and the cloud cover remains entrenched for most of us for the rest of the week.

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## Today in Weather History

January 28, 1983: Freezing rain coated much of eastern South Dakota with up to a half-inch accumulation before it changed over to light snow from the late evening of the 28th to the late evening of the 29th. The combination of ice, light snow, and powerful winds made travel extremely difficult. Numerous accidents and stranded vehicles resulted. Visibilities were near zero at times.

January 28, 1996: Extreme wind chills developed across central, north-central, and northeast South Dakota as well as west-central Minnesota as cold arctic air moved in behind an area of low pressure. With temperatures falling well below zero and northwest winds increasing to 20 to 35 mph, wind chills were lowered to 40 to 70 below throughout the night of the 28th and into the evening of the 29th. Two to five inches of snow had fallen across the area. The strong northwest winds caused areas of blowing snow, significantly reducing visibilities. Big Stone and Traverse counties experienced a blizzard for about six hours on the 29th.

January 28, 2013: A low-pressure system moving slowly across the region produced a moderate to heavy band of snow across much of central and northeastern South Dakota. Snowfall rates exceeded than one inch per hour in some locations. Several area schools and businesses were either closed or opened late on the 29th.

1887: Snowflakes "as large as milk pans" fell at Fort Keogh of Montana. The flakes, which were said to measure 15 inches across and 8 inches thick, hold the unofficial size record!

1986: The Space Shuttle Challenger exploded at 11:39 am EST; 73 seconds after liftoff from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida, on a frigid morning. Starting in the 20s, the ground temperature at takeoff was 36 degrees. Morton Thiokol recommended not launching if the liftoff temperature was below 53 degrees. The cold was blamed for causing the O-rings on the Shuttle's external booster to fail, leading to the explosion.

1922 - The "Knickerbocker" storm immobilized the city of Washington D.C. The storm produced 28 inches of snow in 32 hours, and the heavy snow caused the roof of the Knickerbocker movie theatre to collapse killing 96 persons. (David Ludlum)

1963 - The low of -34 degrees at Cynthiana, KY, equalled the state record established just four days earlier at Bonnieville. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm moving out of the Central Rockies into the Northern Plains Region produced up to a foot of snow in the Colorado Rockies, and wind gusts to 99 mph at Boulder CO. High winds in Colorado caused 5.6 million dollars damage. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Barometric pressure readings of 30.55 inches at Miami FL, 30.66 inches at Tampa FL, and 30.72 inches at Apalachicola FL were all-time record high readings for those locations. (National Weather Summary)

1989 - Nome, AK, reported an all-time record low reading of 54 degrees below zero, and the temperature at Fairwell AK dipped to 69 degrees below zero. Deadhorse AK reported a morning low of 49 degrees below zero, and with a wind chill reading of 114 degrees below zero. In the Lower Forty-eight States, a winter storm over Colorado produced up to 15 inches of snow around Denver. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Strong and gusty winds prevailed across the northwestern U.S., and heavy snow continued over the mountains of Washington State and Oregon. In Idaho, Mullan received seven inches of snow, and winds gusted to 65 mph southeast of Burley. Heavy rain soaked coastal sections of western Oregon. Rainfall totals of 1.20 inches at Portland and 1.57 inches at Eugene were records for the date. Winds in Oregon gusting to 60 mph downed power lines in Umatilla County knocking out power to more than 13,000 homes, just prior to the kick-off of the "Super Bowl" game. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

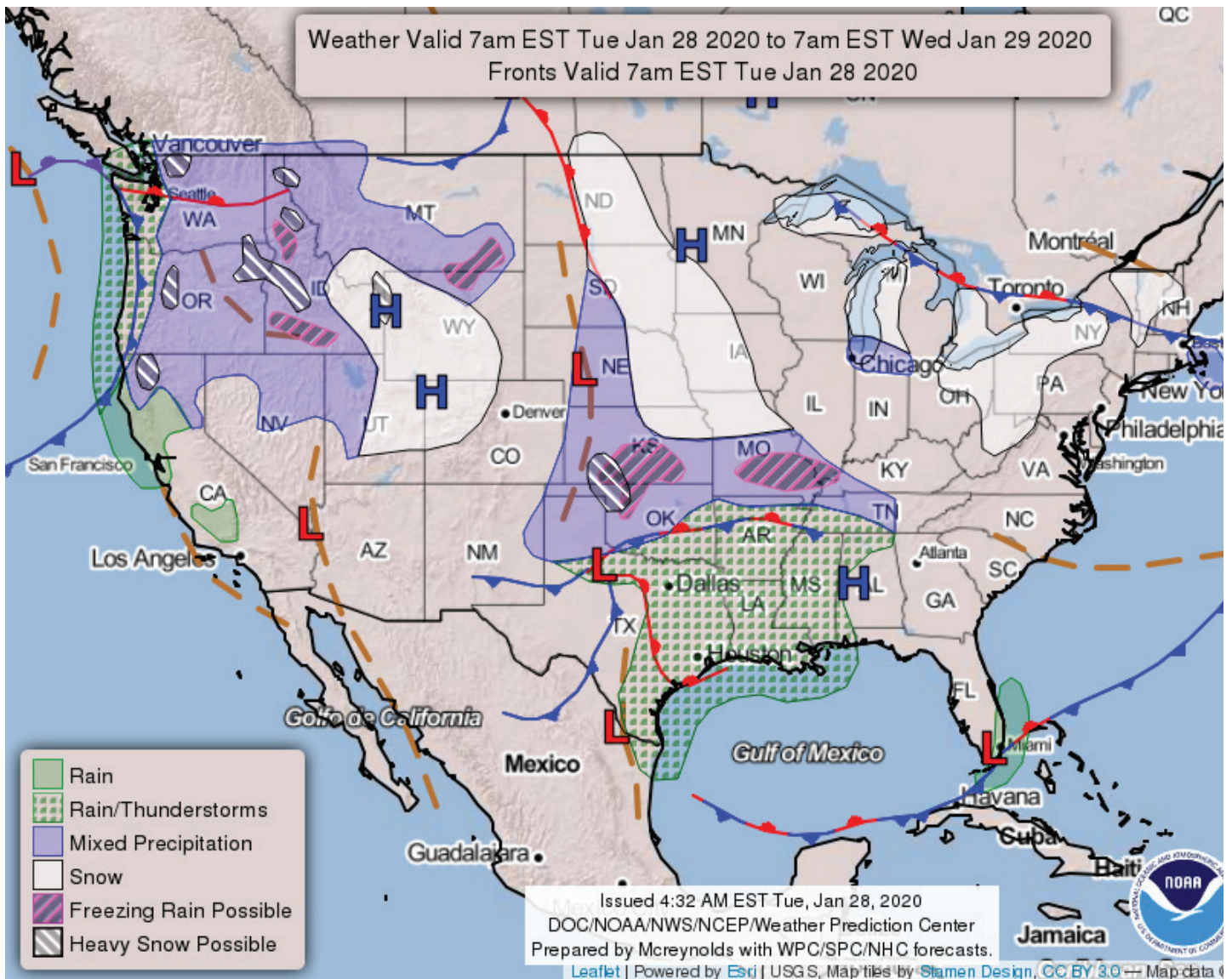
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 20 °F at 12:00 AM**  
**Low Temp: 15 °F at 6:19 AM**  
**Wind: 15 mph at 1:16 AM**  
**Precip:**

**Record High: 53° in 1931, 1908**  
**Record Low: -31° in 1915, 1902**  
**Average High: 23°F**  
**Average Low: 2°F**  
**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.42**  
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.35**  
**Average Precip to date: 0.42**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.35**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:34 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:58 a.m.**





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## WHO'S BIGGER?

One Sunday morning after church as the family was driving home, Molly asked, "Mom, the preacher said that God was bigger than any of us. Is that really true?"

"Yes, He is!" answered her mother.

"Well, Mom," she continued, "the preacher also said that God lives in us. Is that also true?"

"Yes," admitted the mother.

"Well, then," she asked rather confused, "why doesn't He show through us?"

How much of God is seen in or through our lives each day?

We speak of Him often, turn to Him quickly, and say we rely on Him totally, but do we consult with Him continually?

When we make plans, we need to include Him. If we visit with a friend, we need to invite Him into the conversation. As we leave for a journey, we need to ask Him to travel with us. Throughout the day, every day, at work or at play, we need to ask Him for His wisdom.

Perhaps if we consulted God for His advice in everything we do and were more conscious that His Spirit is actually within us, and that He wants to work through us, we would realize that He is bigger than we are and wants to "show through" us.

Prayer: Father, we often think of Your goodness, but rarely talk about it to others. We believe that You love us but seldom share this with others. Come, live through us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Galatians 2:20 My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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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

### **Charges filed in death of woman in Sioux Falls**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man was charged Monday in the death of a 20-year-old woman who authorities say was abducted from a Sioux Falls Walmart parking lot, strangled and left along a gravel road.

Amir Hasan Beaudion Jr., 19, was charged with 15 counts, including first-degree murder, aggravated kidnapping, rape and robbery, in the Jan. 5 abduction of Pasqalina Badi of Sioux Falls, the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office said.

Badi's body was found the next day along a gravel road in Lincoln County and a preliminary autopsy ruled she was strangled, according to the Argus Leader.

Beaudion was arrested on Jan. 7 on charges related to a separate attempted New Year's Day kidnapping from a Hy-Vee parking lot, and had been considered the primary suspect in Badi's death. During a Monday court appearance in the Hy-Vee case, Beaudion made an emotional outburst in court and said: "I ain't do (expletive.)"

Beaudion is expected to be arraigned on the new charges Tuesday. Lincoln County State's Attorney Tom Wollman said. Beaudion was being held on a \$1 million bond.

Wollman said evidence in the disappearance and death of Badi includes video and cell phone data. He didn't elaborate. Wollman wouldn't comment on whether Beaudion and Badi knew each other.

Beaudion's attorney in the attempted kidnapping case, Minnehaha County Public Defender Traci Smith, did not comment on the additional charges Monday.

### **Website access to SD court records from any computer delayed**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Concerns over privacy have delayed for more than a year the launch of a website that will let South Dakotans view public court records from any computer.

The website launch originally planned was planned for late 2019 or early 2020. The website would allow the public to view unsealed court documents for 10 cents per page from any computer at any time of day.

But the administrator of the South Dakota Unified Judicial System, Greg Sattizahn, tells the Rapid City Journal the website is now estimated to go online in the summer of 2021. The Unified Judicial System is still trying to find a service that will redact sensitive information in otherwise public documents, Sattizahn said.

Sattizahn pointed to North Dakota's trouble launching a similar system on Jan. 1. The program was taken down six days later because documents included information that was supposed to be redacted such as Social Security numbers, birth dates, minor's names and financial account numbers, The Bismarck Tribune reported.

In the meantime, people who want to view and print state court records in South Dakota will only be able to access them on computers at state courthouses. Federal court records can be viewed for a fee at any time through pacer.gov.

### **Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials**

By The Associated Press undefined

### **Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Jan. 20**

#### **Is there a need for the ERA in 2020?**

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution — referring to the 1972 proposed constitutional amendment that would mandate that "(e)quality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex" — is back on the national radar, even if it may only be in a symbolic sense.

Last week, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the amendment. After Democrats took control of

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the commonwealth's Legislature last November (electing a record number of women in the process), the long-sought ratification appeared within reach.

By law, amendments are added to the U.S. Constitution only after three-fourths of the states approve their passage. Virginia's approval put the ERA past threshold.

However, proposed constitutional amendments are not on the table for perpetuity. The ERA's window for passage was originally set to close in 1979, but that was extended to 1982. Even so, the amendment fell three states short of passage at that time.

Efforts have been ramped up in recent years to get three more state on board, and it finally worked. Nevada approved the ERA in 2017, followed by Illinois in 2018 and, now, Virginia.

However, five states — including South Dakota and Nebraska — have rescinded their earlier ratifications, and now South Dakota has joined Alabama and Louisiana in filing suit to halt further efforts at ratifying the 1972 amendment.

Whether the ERA can still be adopted is a matter for the courts to untangle, Frankly, because the amendment missed its extended window of opportunity for passage, one wouldn't be surprised to see it dismissed.

But the symbolism of it getting this far may ignite a fresh effort to add this amendment to the Constitution.

Certainly, a lot HAS changed since the ERA was passed by Congress 38 years ago. One of the big arguments against the amendment at the time was that it might expose women to a military draft and combat. Obviously, women have now become integral components of America's fighting forces — female soldiers have fought and died for this country — so that argument now feels antiquated. There were also arguments that women might lose alimony rights, as well as the advantages they had in child custody cases in divorce. But those situations have also evolved through the years.

So, it could be argued that the ERA that passed in 1972 is from a much different age.

But the general concept of equal protection under the law on the basis of sex should be universal. (In fact, 25 states have their own versions of the Equal Rights Amendment in their constitutions.) And now, as more women are in leadership roles in lawmaking, politics, business, the military and other endeavors, the spirit of the ERA should be a fact. And given the strength of the #MeToo movement, the demand for equal justice is louder and more powerful than ever.

But the reality that there's even a perceived need for a #MeToo movement and the fact that, for instance, women in 2019 made only 79 cents for every dollar a man made, according to CNBC, paints a picture of lingering, frustrating inequity that remains rooted in the American landscape nearly four decades later.

So, if the ERA ratification fails to gain legal approval, a new version of it should be crafted and, eventually, put to the states for another vote.

When South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravensborg announced this state's lawsuit to halt the ERA's implementation (a move that, otherwise, had an unfortunate symbolic look for this state), he noted in a press release, "If Congress wants to pass an updated version of the ERA, taking into consideration all the changes in the law since 1972, I have no doubt the South Dakota Legislature would debate the merits in a new ratification process."

Ultimately, the matter of equal rights for men and women shouldn't be a point of argument, whether it was in 1972 or it's in 2020. But it is. One way or another, equal protection must become the spirit and rule of the land, not an exception. And if an ERA is needed to achieve that, then so be it.

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## Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, Jan. 23

### Lawmakers reach new low with latest transgender bill

It didn't take long for South Dakota legislators, specifically those obsessed with discriminatory practices, to unveil their latest heartbreaking work of cruelty.

House Bill 1057, an act to "prohibit certain acts against children and provide a penalty therefor" championed by Republican anti-transgender crusader Fred Deutsch, was deemed to be of such pressing importance to the smooth operation of our state that it was the very first issue to be addressed by the House State Affairs Committee.

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HB 1057 would make it a crime for medical professionals to provide gender-affirming surgeries or hormonal treatment for transgender children younger than 16. Forty-six other Republican state lawmakers, nearly half of the 105 total lawmakers in the House and Senate, leapt at this opportunity to tilt at windmills by signing on as co-sponsors to this solution for a problem that doesn't exist.

The bill, which passed out of committee Wednesday by an 8-5 vote, is the latest attempt by conservative groups to erode the rights of transgender individuals on a national scale. Earlier attempts to limit bathroom usage and sports participation for trans students failed in South Dakota, and now we're on the front lines once again, gaining national attention for all the wrong reasons.

We're tired of having to write this editorial over and over. Bills like HB 1057 and its ignominious forebears exist only to scratch an ideological itch. This is culture-war red meat, a tiresome parade of hot-button social issue legislation of no practical benefit to our state but with plenty of potential downside. Our revenue-challenged state can ill-afford more unnecessary legal costs or further distractions from actual crises like the accelerating nursing home closures.

Our governor's business-friendly pitch risks being drowned out by retrograde howls against diversity that repel new companies which might consider moving to South Dakota. Our tourism revenues will take even greater hits should we lose NCAA sporting events or face out-of-state travel bans because we legalize government-mandated discrimination.

Yet such economic concerns pale in comparison to the damage these repeated attacks can take on our youth, much less the damage that passing this legislation would inflict. Research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that transgender teens are significantly more likely to suffer from depression or be victimized than other teens and are a staggering five times more likely to have attempted suicide in the past year.

Sanford lobbyist Mitch Rave says that fewer than 20 of the one million patients seen in the Sanford Health system in 2019 – one-five hundredth of a percent – were patients younger than 18 being treated for gender dysphoria, and not all of those were patients in South Dakota.

In short, supporters of HB 1057 are "defending" against a phantom menace. They invoke scary words like "sterilization" and "mutilation" and "castration" which bear no relationship to the treatment that transgender pre-adolescents receive in South Dakota and the United States.

The internationally recognized standards of medical care for transgender children do not include surgical or hormonal treatments below age 16, although "puberty blockers" can be used to postpone the physical changes of adolescence. When transgender kids have access to a puberty blocker, their chances of suicide and mental health problems decline significantly, according to a study released this week in the medical journal *Pediatrics*. South Dakota doctors would be prohibited from providing such medically-indicated treatment were this bill to become law.

Anne Dilenschneider, a licensed professional mental health counselor in Sioux Falls specializing in gender health, noted that the transition process involves multiple medical appointments and referrals from mental health professionals. Despite HB 1057 supporters' mischaracterizations of medical transitioning as hasty and ill-considered, "it's a very slow process," Dilenschneider said. "It's not an overnight thing."

In the too-familiar vein of politicians calling facts they disagree with "fake news," Deutsch and the various out-of-state supporters testifying before the committee disparaged the treatment standards, which have been carefully crafted and evaluated by medical and mental health experts from around the world, as "medical experiments." They dismissed the clinical diagnosis of gender dysphoria, one of many criteria required to be met prior to any sort of medical or surgical gender-affirmation, as based on a person's feelings rather than objective science.

This marks the opening salvo along a new angle of attack by anti-transgender extremists, and it's not unique to us. In the South Dakota Legislative Research Council's November 2019 Legislator Update, Deutsch reported that an idea "that could benefit South Dakota" discussed at the Heritage Foundation's Summit on Protecting Children from Sexualization he attended in October was to "establish legislation to criminalize doctors that provide sex change operations to children."

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When asked during the committee hearing about an identical bill introduced in Florida last week, Deutsch said that similar legislation that either has been or soon will be proposed in at least eight other states was inspired by his own "homegrown" bill.

Deutsch, a Watertown chiropractor who sponsored the 2016 transgender "bathroom" bill, styles HB 1057 as the "Vulnerable Child Protection Act." That title gets everything right about the bill except for the "protection" part, for it is this bill that some of South Dakota's most vulnerable children need protection from.

## Madison Daily Leader, Jan. 22

### Plastics ban shouldn't happen at the city level

A bill introduced in the South Dakota Legislature looks like it supports plastic bags, straws and other products, but it merely prohibits local governments from implementing a ban.

Plastic packaging is a huge environmental topic these days, as one-time use and disposal is causing a number of problems. The biggest symbol is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (also known as the Pacific trash vortex), which has plastics and other debris covering as much as 1.6 million square kilometers in the ocean. Some of the plastic is very small and is consumed by fish and marine mammals.

We believe more needs to be done, and quickly. But some laws -- we think banning plastic packaging is among them -- need to be done with a larger geography in mind, like statewide, nationwide or even multinational agreements. Eight U.S. states have banned single-use plastic bags, but a number of individual cities have also.

The Senate bill in South Dakota is intended to prevent confusing situations where a patchwork of cities allows plastic bags and others don't. Let's say the city of Harrisburg bans plastic bags at its stores, but Sioux Falls doesn't. Stores literally across the street from one another would operate under different rules.

Legislative supporters may also be thinking about helping small businesses in South Dakota by preventing cumbersome rules being put upon them. Even so, we think it's only a temporary Band-Aid. We think the combination of bans throughout the country and market pressure from consumers will eventually lead to the elimination of much of the plastic packaging.

The bill is probably fine, but South Dakota lawmakers and businesses should work to find ways we can contribute to fixing the problem of excess plastic.

## Federer saves 7 match points in Australia; Djokovic up next

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Roger Federer was not going to go gently, of course, no matter how daunting the number of match points — his opponent accumulated seven! — no matter how achy his 38-year-old legs, no matter how slow his serves, no matter how off-target his groundstrokes.

Federer still plays for the love of these stages and circumstances. Still yearns for more trophies, too. Down to his very last gasp, time and again, against someone a decade younger, 100th-ranked Tennys Sandgren of the United States, Federer somehow pulled off a memorable comeback to reach the Australian Open semifinals for the 15th time.

Despite all sorts of signs he was not quite himself for much of the match, Federer beat the biceps-baring, hard-hitting, court-covering Sandgren 6-3, 2-6, 2-6, 7-6 (8), 6-3 on Tuesday in a rollicking quarterfinal that appeared to be over long before it truly was.

"For the most time there, I thought that was it. Of course, there's little sparkles where maybe not. Then you're like, 'No, it IS over,'" said Federer, who only once before had won after facing as many as seven match points, equaling his personal best from all the way back in 2003. "Only maybe when I won that fourth set did I really think that, maybe, this whole thing could turn around."

He said afterward that it had been his groin muscle that was the problem and he couldn't be certain whether he would be fully recovered for his next match. That will come against defending champion Novak Djokovic, who overwhelmed No. 32 Milos Raonic 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (1) to improve to 10-0 against the 2016

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Wimbledon runner-up.

"He was just too good," Raonic said.

It'll be the 50th meeting between No. 3 Federer, who has won 20 Grand Slam titles, and No. 2 Djokovic, who owns 16.

Djokovic leads their head-to-head series 26-23, including their past five matches at majors.

"Roger is Roger. You know that he's always going to play on such a high level, regardless of the surface," Djokovic said. "He loves to play these kind of matches, big rivalries, semis, finals of Grand Slams."

About the only thing that slowed Djokovic's progression to a 37th career Grand Slam semifinal — Federer earned his 46th — was the medical timeout the Serb asked for at 4-all in the third set so he could put in new contact lenses.

"It was just something I had to do," Djokovic said, "because those few games, I really couldn't see much."

The last two men's quarterfinals are Wednesday: Rafael Nadal vs. Dominic Thiem, and Alexander Zverev vs. Stan Wawrinka.

One women's semifinal was set Tuesday: No. 1 Ash Barty, trying to become the first Australian Open singles champion from the host country since the 1970s, against No. 14 Sofia Kenin, a 21-year-old American never before this far at any major tournament.

Wednesday's quarterfinals are Simona Halep vs. Anett Kontaveit, and Garbiñe Muguruza vs. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova.

There was a lot to live up to after the drama of Federer vs. Sandgren.

"You can't give a good player — let alone maybe the best player ever — that many chances to come back," said Sandgren, his voice low, his eyes looking down. "They're going to find their game and start playing well. That seemed to me what happened."

In truth, so much had happened.

Federer got into a dispute with a line judge and the chair umpire over cursing. He left the court for a medical timeout early in the third set, then was visited by a trainer later for a right leg massage.

Sandgren was run into by a ballkid during a changeover in the tiebreaker; was distracted by a court-side broadcast commentator.

The 28-year-old from Tennessee has never been a major semifinalist and was trying to become the lowest-ranked man in the Australian Open's final four since Patrick McEnroe — John's younger brother — was No. 114 in 1991.

Imagine, then, the heartbreak for Sandgren, who toiled for years on lower-level tours and was so thrilled just to share the stage with Federer.

"Maybe," Sandgren said, "I'll get another look, another shot."

After rolling through the second and third sets as Federer's serve dropped from an average of 112 mph to 105 mph — "Wasn't popping like it does normally," Sandgren observed — and Federer's unforced errors totaled 30, the underdog led 5-4 in the fourth set.

That's when Sandgren earned his first trio of opportunities to complete a career-defining victory. But he missed a shot each time. There were four more match points in the tiebreaker at 6-3, 6-4, 6-5 and 7-6.

"Honestly, when they told me seven, I was like, 'What?!' I thought it was three," Federer said. "It's such a blur."

Djokovic's take on Federer's comeback: "Amazing."

Raonic's: "Impressive."

When Sandgren sent an overhead smash long to give Federer the fourth set. Federer quickly controlled the fifth and ended the victory with a service winner at 119 mph, a little more than an hour after first staring down defeat.

"Just seemed like his level picked up when his back was right up against the wall," said Sandgren, who only got the chance to serve on one of those seven pivotal points. "He just wouldn't give me anything."

That's how Djokovic makes foes feel.

The key moment for him Tuesday came rather early: Raonic went into the quarterfinals having won all

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59 of his service games in the tournament. But that streak ended at 5-4 against Djokovic. On Djokovic's ninth break point of the match, Raonic missed a forehand to cap a 19-shot exchange, handing over the opening set.

Djokovic yelled and threw an uppercut. Two Raonic service games later, he broke yet again, all he would need to own the second set, too. Soon enough, he was two wins from a record-extending eighth championship at the Australian Open.

Federer has won six titles at Melbourne Park and never lost there to anyone ranked worse than 54th. But Sandgren, whose career tour-level record is under .500, played superbly. He won more points, 161-160, and produced edges of 27-5 in aces, 73-44 in total winners.

"I mean, he never gives up," Djokovic said about Federer. "When it matters the most, he's focused and he plays his best tennis."

Federer knows exactly the sort of pain Sandgren experienced.

Last July, Federer failed to convert a pair of championship points in the fifth set of the Wimbledon final before losing to Djokovic.

"These ones just sting, and they hurt," Federer said. "But ... I was incredibly lucky today."

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## 'Confused and angry': Brexit unsettles EU citizens in the UK

By JILL LAWLESS and JO KEARNEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Anxious, angry, abandoned. Brexit elicits strong emotions, and as Britain's departure from the European Union approaches, more than 3 million U.K. residents who are citizens of EU countries are feeling the impending separation more strongly than most.

Brexit is a huge economic and social experiment, and the U.K.'s European residents are among the guinea pigs.

The U.K. government says they can stay and carry on with their lives as long as they apply for confirmation of their "settled status." For some, that process is easy, or mildly annoying. For others, it's deeply alienating.

Tanja Bueltmann, a Northumbria University history professor who has studied the experiences of EU citizens in Britain as they grapple with Brexit, said many felt the country's decision to leave the EU as a "real rupture."

"People were promised that nothing would change for them. Yet for a good number, even the process already changes everything," she said.

Free movement for people among the EU's member states is a core EU principle and Britain's 2016 vote to leave the bloc was, in part, a reaction to high levels of immigration from other EU nations. More than 1 million EU citizens moved to the U.K after eight formerly communist eastern European countries joined the bloc in 2004.

Britain's departure from the EU on Friday night will end the rights of citizens from the 27 remaining EU nations to settle in Britain, and of Britons to automatically live elsewhere in the bloc. To prevent people having to uproot their lives and their families, the U.K. government says EU citizens already in the country will be given "settled status," protecting their right to live, work, study and receive benefits.

Other EU countries have made similar arrangements for the estimated 1 million U.K. nationals who reside there.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said that EU citizens are welcome and valued, but many say they resent being forced to prove their right to remain in a country they call home.

"I feel strange, really unsettled," said 78-year-old Elly Wright, a Dutch citizen who moved to the U.K. with her late husband in 1969. "It has moved me to the core. What has been happening with Brexit and the



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fact that someone like me, who has lived here for over 50 years, that my status here has to be secured when it always was secure — it makes you feel confused and angry, and also infinitely sad at times.

“My circle of friends, the people I share sadness and happiness with — they’re all here,” she added. “My son lives here. My husband is buried here. I’m as much part of the fabric of this society (as) anyone else.”

Wright is not alone. Bueltmann’s study of more than 3,000 EU citizens found some had experienced “mental health issues that range from depression to suicidal thoughts.” When respondents were asked how they felt, the most frequent words were “angry,” “anxious” and “unwanted.”

The British government insists it has made the process of securing the right to remain as painless as possible. It’s free -- a proposed 65 pound (\$85) fee was dropped after an outcry — and can be completed on a cell phone. The government says by the end of 2019, more than 2.7 million people had applied and almost 2.5 million had been granted either settled status or “pre-settled status,” for those who have lived in the EU for less than five years. Only six applications were refused.

Rights activists say the statistics don’t give the full picture. They don’t account for those who have struggled with the process — such as elderly people who may lack documentation — or those who don’t know they need to apply.

Others worry about trouble down the line. The U.K. government has given EU citizens until the end of June 2021 to apply for settled status. It’s unclear what will happen to those who don’t.

Tahmid Chowdhury of immigration advice charity Here for Good said the deadline could mean “hundreds of thousands of people become undocumented overnight and don’t have any legal right to remain in the U.K.”

Jonny Oates, a Liberal Democrat member of Parliament’s House of Lords who has tried to secure stronger guarantees on EU citizens’ rights, said that “as the law stands at the moment, all those people would be automatically criminalized and subject to deportation on the 30th of June 2021.”

The government insists people needn’t worry — there won’t be deportations after the deadline expires. But it has also sent mixed signals. The prime minister said last month that EU citizens had been “able to treat the U.K. as though it’s basically part of their own country,” a remark whose tone sent chills through many Europeans who call Britain home.

Many EU citizens say they would feel better if they had physical proof — a piece of paper or a passport stamp — to confirm their status. The government’s settled status program is a digital-only affair.

Both the European Parliament and London Mayor Sadiq Khan have expressed fears that European citizens risk future discrimination from landlords and employers because they won’t have an easy way to confirm their residence rights.

They point to the Windrush scandal, which erupted in 2018 when it emerged that people who came to Britain decades ago from the Caribbean had recently been refused housing, jobs and medical care or threatened with deportation because they didn’t have the paperwork to prove their status.

Wright, the Dutch-born long-time U.K. resident, said she worried the EU citizens’ status was “a Windrush waiting to happen.”

“It makes you feel so powerless that we have had no say in this, what is happening to us now,” she said. “And to me, it makes me feel neither here nor there.”

Follow AP’s full coverage of Brexit and British politics at <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

## Trump lawyers raise defenses as pressure grows for witnesses

By ERIC TUCKER, ZEKE MILLER and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump’s legal team is raising a broad-based attack on the impeachment case against him even as it mostly brushes past allegations in a new book that could undercut a key defense argument at his Senate trial.

Former national security adviser John Bolton writes in a manuscript that Trump wanted to withhold military aid from Ukraine until it committed to helping with investigations into Democratic rival Joe Biden.

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That assertion matters because Trump and his lawyers have repeatedly insisted that he never tied the suspension of security aid to political investigations.

The revelation clouded White House hopes for a swift end to the impeachment trial, as Democrats demanded witnesses and some Republicans expressed openness to the idea. It also distracted from hours of arguments Monday from Trump's lawyers, who declared anew that no witness has testified to direct knowledge that Trump's delivery of aid was contingent on investigations into Democrats. Bolton appeared poised to say exactly that if summoned by the Senate.

"We deal with transcript evidence, we deal with publicly available information," attorney Jay Sekulow said. "We do not deal with speculation."

Trump is charged with abusing his presidential power by asking Ukraine's leader to help investigate Biden at the same time his administration was withholding hundreds of millions of dollars in security aid. A second charge accuses Trump of obstructing Congress in its probe.

Republicans are to conclude their arguments Tuesday.

On Monday, Trump's attorneys, including high-profile lawyers Ken Starr and Alan Dershowitz, launched a historical, legal and political attack on the entire impeachment process. They said there was no basis to remove Trump from office, defended his actions as appropriate and assailed Biden, who is campaigning for the Democratic nomination to oppose Trump in November.

Former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi devoted her presentation to Biden and his son Hunter, who served on the board of a Ukraine gas company when his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv. The legal team argued that Trump had legitimate reasons to be suspicious of the younger Biden's business dealings and concerned about corruption in Ukraine and that, in any event, he ultimately released the aid without Ukraine committing to investigations the Republican president wanted.

Trump has sought, without providing evidence, to implicate the Bidens in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Though anti-corruption advocates have raised concerns, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son.

Democrats say Trump released the money only after a whistleblower submitted a complaint about the situation.

Starr, whose independent counsel investigation into President Bill Clinton resulted in his impeachment — he was acquitted by the Senate — bemoaned what he said was an "age of impeachment." Impeachment, he said, requires an actual crime and a "genuine national consensus" that the president must go. Neither exists here, Starr said.

"It's filled with acrimony and it divides the country like nothing else," Starr said of impeachment. "Those of us who lived through the Clinton impeachment understand that in a deep and personal way."

Dershowitz, the final speaker of the evening, argued that impeachable offenses require criminal-like conduct — a view largely rejected by legal scholars. He said "nothing in the Bolton revelations, even if true, would rise to the level of an abuse of power or an impeachable offense."

"Purely non-criminal conduct, including abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, are outside the range of impeachable offenses," Dershowitz said.

Elizabeth Warren, a presidential campaigner like Biden but also a Senate juror, told reporters she found Dershowitz's arguments "nonsensical."

Even as defense lawyers laid out their case as planned, it was clear Bolton's book had scrambled the debate over whether to seek witnesses. Trump's legal team has rejected Bolton's account, and Trump himself denied it.

"I NEVER told John Bolton that the aid to Ukraine was tied to investigations into Democrats, including the Bidens," Trump tweeted. "If John Bolton said this, it was only to sell a book."

Republican senators face a pivotal moment. Pressure is mounting for at least four to buck GOP leaders and form a bipartisan majority to force the issue. Republicans hold a 53-47 majority.

"John Bolton's relevance to our decision has become increasingly clear," GOP Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah told reporters. Sen. Susan Collins of Maine said she has always wanted "the opportunity for witnesses" and the report about Bolton's book "strengthens the case."

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At a private GOP lunch, Romney made the case for calling Bolton, according to a person unauthorized to discuss the meeting and granted anonymity.

Other Republicans, including Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, said if Bolton is called, they will demand reciprocity to hear from at least one of their witnesses. Some Republicans want to call the Bidens.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell didn't know about Bolton's book, his office said. But the GOP leader appeared unmoved by news of the Bolton book. His message at the lunch, said Indiana GOP Sen. Mike Braun, was, "Take a deep breath, and let's take one step at a time."

Once the president's team wraps up its arguments, senators have 16 hours for written questions to both sides. By late in the week, they are expected to hold a vote on whether or not to hear from any witnesses.

While Democrats say Bolton's revelations are reminiscent of the Watergate drip-drip-drip of new information, Republicans are counting on concerns subsiding by the time senators are asked to vote. They are being told that if there is agreement to summon Bolton, the White House will resist, claiming executive privilege.

That would launch a weekslong court battle that could drag out the impeachment trial, a scenario some GOP senators would rather avoid.

Trump and his lawyers have argued repeatedly that Democrats are using impeachment to try to undo the results of the last presidential election and drive Trump from office.

Democrats, meanwhile, say Trump's refusal to allow administration officials to testify only reinforces that the White House is hiding evidence. The White House has had Bolton's manuscript for about a month, according to a letter from Bolton's attorney.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said: "We're all staring a White House cover-up in the face."

Rep. Adam Schiff, who leads the House prosecution team, called Bolton's account a test for the senators.

"I don't know how you can explain that you wanted a search for the truth in this trial and say you don't want to hear from a witness who had a direct conversation about the central allegation in the articles of impeachment," Schiff said on CNN.

Bolton's account was first reported by The New York Times and was confirmed to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the manuscript. "The Room Where It Happened; A White House Memoir" is to be released March 17.

Joe Biden, campaigning in Iowa, said he sees no reason for testimony by him or his son.

"I have nothing to defend. This is all a game, even if they bring me up," he told reporters. "What is there to defend? This is all -- the reason he's being impeached is because he tried to get a government to smear me and they wouldn't. Come on."

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

## **Puerto Rico opens only 20% of schools amid ongoing quakes**

**By DANICA COTO Associated Press**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico opened only 20% of its public schools on Tuesday following a strong earthquake that delayed the start of classes by nearly three weeks as fears linger over the safety of students.

Only 177 schools were certified to open after engineers inspected them for damage caused by the magnitude-6.4 earthquake that killed one person and damaged hundreds of homes on Jan. 7. But the inspections were not to determine whether a school could withstand another strong earthquake or had structural shortcomings such as short columns that make it vulnerable to collapse, further worrying parents.

"Of course I am afraid," said 38-year-old Marién Santos, who attended an open house on Monday at her son's Ramón Vilá Mayo high school in the suburb of Río Piedras where officials gave her a copy of the inspection report and evacuation plans.

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Her concerns were echoed by the director of the school, Elisa Delgado. While she believes engineers did a thorough inspection of the school, built in the early 1900s, they warned her not to use the main entrance in an evacuation because it leads to an area filled with gas lines. The problem is that the other exits are too narrow to handle the school's 450 students, she told The Associated Press.

"It's not ideal," she said.

Overall, engineers have inspected 561 of the island's 856 public schools, finding at least 50 too unsafe to reopen, leaving some 240,000 students out of school for now. Ongoing tremors also are forcing crews to automatically re-inspect schools following any quake of 3.0 magnitude or higher, according to Puerto Rico's Infrastructure Financing Authority.

Since the 6.4 quake, there have been several strong aftershocks, including a 5.9 magnitude one that hit on Jan. 11 and a 5.0 that struck on Saturday. The biggest quake flattened the top two floors of a three-story school in the southern coastal city of Guánica on Jan. 7, two days before classes were scheduled to start.

Overall, experts say that some 500 public schools in Puerto Rico were built before 1987 and don't meet new construction codes. A plan to retrofit all schools that need it, an estimated 756 buildings, would cost up to \$2.5 billion, officials have said, noting those are preliminary figures.

Education Secretary Eligio Hernández noted that another 51 schools are scheduled to start classes on Feb. 3 and that his department is reviewing recommendations on how best to proceed with the other schools.

"The Department of Education is going to take the time it needs and will take all necessary actions so that parents ... feel satisfied," he told reporters on Monday.

Elba Aponte, president of Puerto Rico's Association of Teachers, told the AP that she has received complaints and pictures from parents and school employees of at least 10 schools that are reopening but that they feel are still unsafe.

Most of the pictures are of cracks in the walls and roofs of those schools, she said.

"Their concerns are quite valid," Aponte said, adding that she would share them with the island's education secretary.

Meanwhile, school and government officials are trying to figure out what to do with the roughly 240,000 students who aren't able to go to school yet, either because their building was deemed unsafe or has not yet been inspected. No schools in the island's southern and southwest region will reopen for now, officials say.

Options include placing students in other schools with revised schedules or holding classes in refurbished trailers or outdoors under tarps, Aponte said as she lamented the situation.

"It's terrible," she said. "If there was one place where they could feel safe, it was at school."

## Pilot of Bryant helicopter tried to avoid heavy fog

By **STEFANIE DAZIO, DAVID KOENIG and BERNARD CONDON** Associated Press

CALABASAS, Calif. (AP) — A veteran pilot who plunged into a Los Angeles-area hillside, killing Kobe Bryant and eight others, had tried to avoid fog so heavy that it had grounded police choppers, authorities said.

But even experienced pilots may have only seconds to act when they are blinded by weather, an expert said as investigators began scouring the wreckage for clues to Sunday morning's crash.

The NBA postponed the Los Angeles Lakers' next game against the Clippers on Tuesday night after the deaths of the retired superstar and the other victims.

Bryant's death at age 41 was mourned around the world in an outpouring of shocked grief. And while the official investigation into the cause of the crash was just beginning and crews were still working to recover the bodies, experts and armchair pilots alike already were flooding social media and the airwaves with speculation.

One popular theme was the weather. Dense fog had settled along part of the flight path.

The chartered Sikorsky S-76B was a luxury twin-engine aircraft often used by Bryant in traffic-jumping hops around the LA area's notoriously congested sprawl. It was heading from John Wayne Airport in Orange County to Camarillo Airport in Ventura County when it crashed in Calabasas.

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Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, and the other passengers were heading to Bryant's Mamba Sports Academy, a youth sports center in Thousand Oaks. Bryant was to coach a basketball tournament there in which his daughter was supposed to play.

Also killed were John Altobelli, 56, longtime head coach of Southern California's Orange Coast College baseball team; his wife, Keri; and daughter, Alyssa, who played on the same basketball team as Bryant's daughter; and Christina Mauser, a girls' basketball coach at a Southern California elementary school.

The pilot, Ara Zobayan, was chief pilot for the craft's owner, Island Express Helicopters. He also was a flight instructor, had more than 8,000 hours of flight time and had flown Bryant and other celebrities several times before, including Kylie Jenner.

"He was such a nice man," Jenner wrote on Instagram.

Randy Waldman, a helicopter flight instructor who lives in Los Angeles, said the radar tracking data he's seen leads him to believe the pilot got confused in the fog and went into a fatal dive.

The aircraft's speed "means he was completely out of control and in a dive," Waldman said.

"Once you get disoriented your body senses completely tell you the wrong thing. You have no idea which way is up or down," he said.

"If you're flying visually, if you get caught in a situation where you can't see out the windshield, the life expectancy of the pilot and the aircraft is maybe 10, 15 seconds," Waldman said.

Some experts raised questions of whether the helicopter should have even been flying. The weather was so foggy that the Los Angeles Police Department and the county sheriff's department had grounded their own choppers.

"He could have turned around and gone back to a safer place with better visibility," Waldman said.

However, "a lot of times somebody who's doing it for a living is pressured to get their client to where they have to go," Waldman said. "They take chances that maybe they shouldn't take."

The helicopter was flying around Burbank, just north of Los Angeles, when the pilot received air traffic control permission to use special visual flight rules, allowing the helicopter to fly in less-than-optimal visibility and weather conditions.

Zobayan was told to follow a freeway and stay at or below 2,500 feet (762 meters), according to radio traffic. The pilot didn't seem overly concerned although at one point, he asks air traffic controllers to provide "flight following" guidance but is told the helicopter is too low for that radar assistance.

About four minutes later, "the pilot advised they were climbing to avoid a cloud layer," Jennifer Homendy of the National Transportation Safety Board said Monday.

It was his last message to air traffic controllers.

"When ATC asked what the pilot planned to do, there was no reply," Homendy said. "Radar data indicates the helicopter climbed to 2,300 feet (701 meters) and then began a left descending turn."

Two minutes later, someone on the ground called 911 to report the crash. The helicopter had slammed into a hillside and burst into flames.

Details of what followed are still under investigation but there are indications that the helicopter plunged some 1,000 feet (305 meters). It was flying at about 184 mph (296 kph) and descending at a rate of more than 4,000 feet per minute when it struck the ground, according to data from Flightradar24.

The helicopter's rapid climb and fast descent suggest the pilot was disoriented, said Jerry Kidrick, a retired Army colonel who flew helicopters in Iraq and now teaches at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona.

Disoriented pilots must instantly switch from visual cues to flying the aircraft using only the machine's instruments, he said.

"It's one of the most dangerous conditions you can be in," Kidrick said. "Oftentimes, your body is telling you something different than what the instruments are telling you."

On Monday, NTSB investigators scoured the area to collect evidence and Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies on horseback patrolled the brushy Calabasas hillside. Homendy said the NTSB expected to be on the scene for five days.

"It was a pretty devastating accident scene," she said of the widespread wreckage. "A piece of the tail is down the hill. The fuselage is on the other side of that hill. And then the main rotor is about 100 yards (91 meters) beyond that."

Homendy urged people with photographs of weather in the area at the time of the crash to send them to the NTSB. However, she said investigating teams would look at everything, from the pilot's history and actions to the state of the helicopter and its engines.

"We look at man, machine and the environment," she said. "And weather is just a small portion of that."

Condon reported from New York and Koenig from Dallas. Associated Press writer Brian Melley also contributed to this story.

## Trump to unveil his Middle East peace plan amid skepticism

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is set to unveil his administration's much-anticipated Middle East peace plan in the latest American venture to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Odds of it taking shape, though, appear long, given the Palestinians' preemptive rejection of the plan and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's shaky political standing.

For both men, the White House summit looks to be a welcome diversion.

Trump is expected to present the proposal alongside Netanyahu at noon Tuesday. The event comes the day Trump's impeachment trial continues in the Senate and the Israeli parliament had planned a hearing to discuss Netanyahu's request for immunity from criminal corruption charges.

Netanyahu withdrew that request hours before the parliamentary proceedings were set to begin, saying in a statement he had "decided not to let this dirty game continue." But Israel's parliament, the Knesset, is still expected to meet even after the withdrawal. The body had been set to likely vote against immunity, dealing Netanyahu a blow.

The Mideast peace proposal is expected to be very favorable to Israel, and Netanyahu has hailed it as a chance to "make history" and define Israel's final borders. Netanyahu's political challenger Benny Gantz has spoken in glowing terms about Trump and his initiative. Trump insists it has a chance despite skepticism.

"It's been worked on by everybody, and we'll see whether or not it catches hold. If it does, that would be great, and if it doesn't, we can live with it, too. But I think it might have a chance," Trump said alongside Netanyahu on Monday, when he also hosted Gantz at the White House.

A key element will be whether the proposal includes an American approval to any Israeli annexation of the West Bank.

In the run-up to Israel's March 2 election, Netanyahu has called for annexing parts of the West Bank and imposing Israeli sovereignty on all its settlements there. Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war, and the Jordan Valley in particular is considered a vital security asset.

Reports in Israeli media have speculated Trump's plan could include the possible annexation of large pieces of territory that the Palestinians seek for a future independent state. American approval could give Netanyahu the type of cover to go ahead with a move that he's resisted taking for more than a decade in power.

But Netanyahu leads a caretaker government ahead of the country's third election in less than a year, and such a far-reaching move, under the cloud of criminal corruption indictment no less, could lack public legitimacy.

Such a policy shift would appeal to Netanyahu's hard-line nationalist supporters but would almost certainly torpedo the viability of an independent Palestinian state and likely infuriate neighboring Jordan. In 1994, Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty, the second between Israel and its Arab neighbors after Egypt.

The Palestinians seek the West Bank as the heartland of a future independent state and east Jerusalem as their capital. Most of the international community supports their position, but Trump has reversed decades of U.S. foreign policy by siding more blatantly with Israel. The centerpiece of his strategy was

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recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving the American Embassy there. He's also closed Palestinian diplomatic offices in Washington and cut funding to Palestinian aid programs.

Those policies have proven popular among Trump's evangelical and pro-Israel supporters and could give him a much-needed boost from his base as the Senate weighs whether to remove him from office and as he gears up for a reelection battle this year.

Jared Kushner, a Trump adviser and the Republican president's son-in-law, has been the architect for the plan for nearly three years. He's tried to persuade academics, lawmakers, former Mideast negotiators, Arab governments and special-interest groups not to reject his fresh approach outright.

But the Palestinians refuse to even speak to Trump, saying he's biased in favor of Israel, and they are calling on Arab representatives to reject the Tuesday event at the White House. The Palestinian leadership also has encouraged protests in the West Bank, raising fears that the announcement in Washington could spark a new round of violence. Ahead of the announcement, the Israeli military said it was reinforcing infantry troops along the Jordan Valley.

## Hong Kong to cut rail links as virus from China spreads

By JOE McDONALD Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Hong Kong said Tuesday it will cut all rail links to mainland China as the United States and other governments prepared to evacuate citizens from the Chinese city at the center of a virus outbreak that has now killed more than 100 people.

Wearing a green surgical mask, Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam told a news conference that train service would stop at midnight Thursday and that the two stations connecting to the mainland would be closed.

She stopped short of a total closing of the border, as North Korea and Mongolia have done, but said that flights from the mainland would be reduced.

China's death toll from the new viral disease rose to 106, including the first death in Beijing, the Chinese capital, and 24 others in Hubei province, where the first illnesses were detected in December.

Asian stock markets tumbled for a second day, dragged down by worries about the virus's global economic impact.

The U.S. Consulate in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, where authorities cut off most access Jan. 22 in an effort to contain the disease, was preparing to fly its diplomats and some other Americans out of the city on Wednesday. Japan and South Korea said they would send planes to Wuhan this week to evacuate their citizens. France, Mongolia and other governments also planned evacuations.

U.S. health officials expanded their recommendation for people to avoid non-essential travel to any part of China, rather than just Wuhan and other areas most affected by the outbreak.

China's increasingly drastic containment efforts began with the suspension of plane, train and bus links to Wuhan, a city of 11 million people. That lockdown has expanded to 17 cities with more than 50 million people in the most far-reaching disease-control measures ever imposed.

There were 1,771 new cases confirmed in China on Monday, raising the national total to 4,515, according to the National Health Commission. It said 976 people were in serious condition.

The government has sent 6,000 extra medical workers to Wuhan from across China, including 1,800 who were due to arrive Tuesday, a commission official, Jiao Yahui, said at a news conference.

A baby boy was delivered by surgery in Wuhan after his 27-year-old mother was hospitalized as a "highly suspected" virus case, state TV reported. The mother, who has a fever and cough, was 37 weeks pregnant, or two weeks less than a standard full term.

Doctors wore protective masks and clothing for the delivery Friday at Union Hospital.

"It was unlikely for her to be able to give natural birth," said the hospital's deputy director of obstetrics, Zhao Yin. "After the baby was born, the mother would suffer less pressure in her lungs and she could get better treatment."

In Beijing, residents of two villages in the capital's eastern Pinggu district were refusing to allow outsiders to enter in an effort to avoid the virus.

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"The village has been locked down," a member of the Beitumen village committee who would give only his surname, Guo, said by telephone. He said villagers are allowed to go out to buy daily necessities.

Another village, Jingyu, imposed similar restrictions, said a member of the local committee who wouldn't give his name.

The Education Ministry canceled English proficiency and other tests for students to apply to foreign universities. The ministry said the new semester for public schools and universities following Lunar New Year was postponed until further notice.

Hong Kong announced postal services and most government offices would stay closed through at least next week. The education department said schools would reopen on Feb. 17.

Chinese financial markets were closed for the holiday, but stock indexes in Tokyo, Seoul and Sydney all declined.

Beijing's official response has "vastly improved" since the 2002-03 SARS outbreak, which also originated in China, but "fears of a global contagion are not put to bed," said Vishnu Varathan at Mizuho Bank in Singapore.

Airlines, resorts and other companies that rely on travel and tourism suffered steep losses. Prices of gold and bonds rose as traders moved money into safe haven holdings.

The Shanghai Stock Exchange, one of the world's busiest, announced it was postponing the resumption of trading after the holiday by three days to Monday.

Scientists are concerned about the new virus because it is closely related to other diseases including SARS, which killed nearly 800 people.

So far, the new coronavirus doesn't seem to spread as easily among people as SARS or influenza. Most of the cases that spread between people were of family members and health workers who had contact with patients. That suggests the new virus isn't well adapted to infect people.

China has reported eight cases in Hong Kong and five in Macao, and more than 45 cases have been confirmed elsewhere in the world. Almost all involve mainland Chinese tourists or people who visited Wuhan.

On Tuesday, Taiwan said two 70-year-old tourists from Wuhan had been confirmed to have the disease, raising its total to seven cases. Thailand reported six members of a family from Hubei were new cases, raising its total to 14.

Germany confirmed its first case late Monday. Infections also have been confirmed in the United States, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Nepal, France, Canada, Australia and Sri Lanka.

The five American cases — two in southern California and one each in Washington state, Chicago and Arizona — are people who had recently arrived from central China. Health officials said they had no evidence the virus was spreading in the United States and they believe the risk to Americans remains low.

During the SARS outbreak, Chinese authorities were criticized for reacting slowly and failing to disclose information. The government has responded more aggressively to the latest outbreak.

Wuhan is building two hospitals, one with 1,500 beds and another with 1,000, for the growing number of patients. The first is scheduled to be finished next week.

The coronavirus family includes the common cold but also more severe illnesses such as SARS and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome. The new virus causes cold- and flu-like symptoms, including cough and fever, and in more severe cases, shortness of breath and pneumonia.

The virus is thought to have spread to people from wild animals sold at a Wuhan market. China on Sunday banned trade in wild animals and urged people to stop eating meat from them.

Associated Press researcher Henry Hou in Beijing and video journalist Katie Tam in Hong Kong contributed to this story.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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



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1. **WHY BOLTON'S ASSERTION MATTERS** The former national security adviser alleges in a new book that Trump tied the suspension of security aid to Ukraine to political investigations, something the president and his lawyers insisted never happened.

2. **VIRUS DEATH TOLL RISES** China's death toll from a new viral disease exceeds 100, prompting Hong Kong's leader to suspend all rail links to the mainland beginning on Friday.

3. **'EVERYBODY IS SCARED'** While richer countries prepare to evacuate some citizens from China, a Tanzanian student has become an accidental leader for hundreds of African peers with little chance of a similar escape, AP learns.

4. **WHAT PILOTS ARE SAYING ABOUT KOBE BRYANT CRASH** Even experienced helicopter pilots may have only seconds to act when they are blinded by weather such as the conditions that may have contributed to the crash that killed the retired NBA star and eight others.

5. **WHITE HOUSE TO UNVEIL MIDEAST PEACE PLAN** Odds of it taking shape appear long, given the Palestinians' preemptive rejection of the plan and Trump's and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's shaky political standings.

6. **ISLAMIC STATE GROUP EYEING COMEBACK** Tensions between Washington and Tehran and the resulting clash over the U.S. military presence in the Middle East provides a comeback opportunity for the extremist group, experts say.

7. **WHO'S BANKING ON SUPER TUESDAY** Democratic presidential hopeful Michael Bloomberg is bypassing the first four voting states to focus on the 14 states that vote on March 3.

8. **WEINSTEIN TRIAL PICKS UP PACE** Three more accusers are expected to testify in the closely watched #MeToo era rape trial of the disgraced Hollywood mogul.

9. **IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN** The IRS begins accepting and processing tax returns for individuals and there are a few tweaks to be aware of.

10. **FEDERER SURVIVES 7 MATCH POINTS TO ADVANCE** The 20-time major champion outlasts Tennys Sandgren of the United States in five sets to reach the semifinals of the Australian Open.

## 'Like I'm trapped': Africans in China lockdown see no escape

By **CARA ANNA** and **ELIAS MESERET** Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The normally bustling supermarket in Wuhan was deserted, looking more foreign than ever. Khamis Hassan Bakari walked the aisles and saw just two other shoppers, and fear sank in.

"Everybody is scared. Scared of seeing anyone," the 39-year-old Tanzanian doctor said, as authorities around the world scramble to contain the new virus that began in the industrial Chinese city of 11 million. "You don't even want the supermarket to touch the products you buy."

Bakari spoke with The Associated Press this week from his university housing in Wuhan as China's astonishing lockdown of more than 50 million people continues. Transport links have been cut. Streets are largely empty. Lunar New Year festivities have fallen flat.

With thousands of foreigners stranded in Wuhan, and with richer countries like the United States and Japan preparing to evacuate some citizens, the PhD student has become a leader for hundreds of African peers with little chance of a similar escape.

"I'm feeling like I'm trapped here," said one Ethiopian student at Wuhan University of Science and Technology, who gave only his first name, Abel. He, like other students, cited worries that angering Chinese or their country's authorities could lead to retaliation, like loss of scholarships.

Beijing's push to expand its influence on the youthful African continent means Africans now make up the second-largest population of foreign students in China, behind those from elsewhere in Asia, according to China's education ministry. In 2018 African students numbered more than 80,000.

More than 4,000 are estimated to be in Wuhan alone.

None of them expected this. No one knows how long the lockdown will last, or all the ways the virus can spread. The southern African nation of Botswana has openly worried about its students' supplies of water and food. Kenya's government has had to defend itself against accusations it was not helping its students.

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So Bakari and a small committee of fellow doctors from his East African country regularly send updates on social media about the outbreak to the more than 400 Tanzanian students in Wuhan, as well as hundreds of countrymen elsewhere in China.

"They don't have a clue what is going on," Bakari said. And, because the updates are largely in Swahili, the lingua franca of East Africa, many beyond his country can follow them, too.

"Together we are one family," the association tweeted Tuesday, encouraging fellow Africans to follow precautionary measures.

The concerns are real. Even Africa's most developed economy, South Africa, has signaled it will not evacuate citizens. On Sunday it told students in China to adhere to university instructions, warning that leaving without permission "can have far-reaching consequences." Morocco's King Mohammed VI, however, has ordered his government to repatriate 100 nationals of the north African nation from Wuhan.

Speaking by phone, Bakari sounded remarkably relaxed, even chuckling, as he described life under lockdown.

"For me as a doctor, I know how to cope with the stress," the specialist in nuclear medicine said. "So we have initiated a way of going through this ordeal."

To help keep people calm, the Tanzanian committee has recommended this: Exercise at least 20 minutes a day — and don't spend too much time online. The committee looked into an online video showing an ill Congolese student at a Chinese hospital that quickly led to fears he had the virus.

"But that guy, he actually had kidney stones," Bakari said. "We don't have a foreign student here in Wuhan suffering from the virus, we haven't heard of any case."

A Ghanaian student said campus authorities at Wuhan University of Science and Technology had warned students against sharing videos, photos or messages about the virus on WeChat, the popular Chinese messaging app, threatening to cut their WiFi connections if they do.

Students were only trying to learn about the situation, said the student, adding that he wants to leave China the moment transport links are restored.

"This is not the time to be adventurous," Ghana's ambassador to China, Edward Boateng, has warned. "Let's not panic in the process." The African diplomatic corps in Beijing has been exploring options to help students, reaching out to the U.N. migration agency and others.

Another Tanzanian on the grassroots committee, Dr. Hilal Kizwi, described a situation "full of panic" especially for newer African students who don't yet speak Chinese.

The new virus started out like a flu, he said. Then authorities told him and others doing their residency at a local hospital to be careful and cover their mouths. Patients started dying, and the number of patients soared. Supplies of masks and other items ran low. Finally, students were told to no longer report to work.

"It's like I'm locked up in a cell," Kizwi said shortly after his evening prayers. "The only thing I have is to talk to my family: 'I'm safe, I'm doing fine.'" And he was, until he heard a local doctor had died of the virus. When he ventured outside after the death, he wore two face masks instead of one.

Students have reached out to Tanzania's embassy about leaving Wuhan and were told authorities were working on it, Kizwi said. "But I don't expect it."

There is little to do. Police are constantly monitoring people who are out and about, his countryman Bakari said. Most supermarkets and pharmacies are closed. The one shop at his and Kizwi's school, Tongji Medical College, quickly sells out every day.

Bakari said the Tanzanian committee has begun collecting phone numbers of international representatives for all universities in Wuhan so students can report on any shortages or which campuses are being especially helpful.

Some students are given thermometers and visited every day for a temperature check, Bakari said. At his school, they are given face masks daily.

"Our university gave us supplies the day before yesterday," he said, including two boxes of chocolate, cookies, sugar, cooking oil and bottles of water. "Today there's new information that if we want to go around the city, we have to ask the local community. They have provided us with a phone number and

we call them to ask for transport or supplies, if possible.”

He complimented Chinese authorities on their response: “We really appreciate what they’re doing.”

But Bakari said he has no plans to go out again.

With his new stash from his supermarket visit of fruit, vegetables, legumes and milk powder — to help combat protein deficiency now that eating eggs, fish or meat is not an option since the virus jumped from animals to humans — he has settled into his role as an investigator, semi-therapist and amateur media outlet.

This new reality can be tiring. But “actually we don’t sleep these days,” he said.

Meseret reported from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## Asian demand for face masks soars on fears of Chinese virus

By HARUKA NUGA and GRANT PECK Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Panic and pollution drive the market for protective face masks, so business is booming in Asia, where fear of the virus from China is straining supplies and helping make mask-wearing the new normal.

Demand for face masks and hand sanitizing liquid has soared, as both local residents and visitors from China stock up on such products as a reassuring precaution.

Factories are rushing to boost production as the number of infections and deaths from the new virus first found in the central Chinese city of Wuhan climbs. In some parts of Asia, wearing of surgical masks has become mandatory, for now.

“Sales of disinfectant products and hygiene masks have been rising since last week. First Chinese tourists came to our store to buy these products to bring back with them. They bought in bulk, like two or three boxes per person,” said Varumporn Krataitohg, an employee of the NanBhesaj drugstore in central Bangkok.

The outbreak began before the Chinese Lunar New Year, when tens of thousands of Chinese tourists visit Thailand, Japan and other parts of Asia. Demand has risen by 80% starting with this past weekend’s Chinese New Year, said Varumporn.

“Now we are out of disinfectant gel for hands. The maker just sent just new lots this morning and by noon we were sold out,” she said. “People keep coming and asking for these products.”

Japanese often wear surgical masks to protect against colds, flu or hay fever. Shelves of some stores were scooped bare as Japanese health officials confirmed four cases of the virus.

Christine Yuuki, a 25-year-old tourist from Hefei, west of Nanjing, was shopping in Tokyo for masks for friends and family back in China.

“In China, masks are very expensive,” she said, adding that one little pack of masks costs more than 100 yuan (\$14). “They are cheaper here and easier to buy.”

Iris Ohyama, a major maker of household goods and home appliances, said Monday its mask sales last week had tripled from week before. It has asked some workers at one of its two factories in China to cut short their 10-day Lunar New Year holiday and get back to work, it said.

Stocks of masks ran out quickly at outlets of South Korea’s biggest 24-hour convenience store, CU, at airports, bus terminals and other transportation hubs.

Sales of soap, hand sanitizers and mouthwash more than doubled, said CU’s parent company, BGF Retail. Overall, though, there were no immediate signs of major shortages in South Korea, which has reported four cases of the illness.

In Taiwan, likewise, the government said that there were enough masks and that current daily production capacity of 1.88 million face masks could be boosted to 2.44 million to meet any spike in demand.

Seven cases of the virus have been confirmed on the island, which has imposed a month-long ban on exports of two types of surgical masks to ensure they’ll be available.

Everyday use of surgical masks, once mainly confined to Japan and parts of China affected by major dust storms or smog, has expanded in recent years, mainly because of worsening air pollution. In the Philip-

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piners, which has reported no cases of the virus, the recent eruptions of the Taal volcano have prompted many to wear masks to protect against ash.

Cambodia registered its first new virus case on Monday and launched a campaign to give away 1 million masks to people entering the country at Poipet, on its border with Thailand.

Indonesia, Asia's third most populous country after China and India, has not confirmed any cases of the virus. At the request of its embassy, it's sending 10,000 masks to China for distribution to Indonesians living there, said Agus Wibowo, a spokesman for the Health Ministry.

In Bangkok, consumers are faced with choosing between N95 masks, which many residents have worn during recent weeks of heavy air pollution, or plain surgical masks that can help block transmission of the virus and are more breathable.

Thailand, a favorite Chinese vacation destination, has 14 confirmed cases of the illness, the highest national total outside China.

While some stores were temporarily sold out, especially in places frequented by Chinese tourists, there's no absolute shortage of masks, said Prayote Pensut, the deputy director general of the Thai Commerce Ministry's Internal Trade Department.

Whether or not masks do much to prevent the virus from spreading, they seem to reassure many.

Wuhan is "pretty much contained," said Ian Zhao, a 30-year-old engineer from Shenzhen who was visiting Bangkok's ornate Grand Palace. So, "you just don't worry about it too much, wash your hands, put on masks, just keep your personal hygiene every day. And it's mostly fine."

Peck reported from Bangkok. Associated Press Writers Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo, Jim Gomez in Manila, Philippines, Busaba Sivasomboon and Tassanee Vejpongsa in Bangkok, Sopheng Cheang in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Niniek Karmini in Jakarta, Indonesia contributed to this story.

## As US rescues some from virus in China, others left behind

By **DAKE KANG** Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — As hundreds of Americans prepare to evacuate Wuhan, the central Chinese city at the heart of a new virus outbreak that has killed over 100, San Francisco native Doug Perez is staying behind.

It's not that he's unconcerned. Perez, 28, and his girlfriend have hunkered down in their apartment for the past five days. They've argued. They've fretted over missed food deliveries. They've dubbed their Labrador, Chubby, "Apocalypse Dog," venturing out for short walks on deserted streets only after fitting him with a mask.

But Perez won't leave because his girlfriend, a Chinese citizen, won't be allowed on the plane.

"A lot of foreigners are stuck here," Perez said. "There is no way on Earth many of us, including myself, are going to leave our loved ones."

As China rolls out containment measures unprecedented in modern history, locking down more than 50 million people in 17 cities, foreigners trapped in the quarantine zone are wondering when they can return home.

The U.S. government is chartering a flight on Tuesday night to take several hundred diplomats, family members and other Americans out of the country to Ontario, California. The plane will refuel in Anchorage, Alaska, where the passengers will be rescreened, according to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

But Americans in Wuhan estimate there are more than a thousand U.S. citizens in the city, meaning most will be left behind.

"It's like a sinking ship," Perez said.

The day the lockdown was announced, Perez and his girlfriend got in a fight — "a plate was destroyed" — over whether to venture to a supermarket to buy food. His girlfriend, who doesn't want to be named, won the argument, and the couple began ordering food online. The streets went quiet. They stay in every night, spending hours a day on social media checking up on the latest news and fielding calls from wor-

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ried relatives.

On Monday evening, guards barred him from leaving his apartment compound, leaving him wondering what's next.

"That's kind of dawned on me, like how bad this could get," Perez said. "Who knows what will be next week. Will it be police, will it be soldiers? Will we physically not be able to leave our building?"

Japan, South Korea, France and other wealthy governments are also planning evacuations. But for many from other countries, there are no plans for evacuations at all, leaving them totally stranded.

Another American, who declined to be identified out of fear of online and government harassment, said she was choosing to stay behind because she has a cough and was told she would likely be quarantined at the Wuhan airport by Chinese authorities.

But for Priscilla Dickey, 35, from South Burlington, Vermont, trying to get on the plane was a no-brainer because of her 8-year-old daughter, Hermione, who she worries could be vulnerable to the virus. On Monday afternoon, the consulate phoned Dickey and told her she and her daughter had seats.

After packing a bag with three shirts and a pair of pants, Dickey stayed up until two in the morning trying to figure out how she would get to the airport amid a transportation shutdown. She "stress cleaned" her apartment in the morning, she said, before getting in an airport-bound car, waves of emotion washing over her.

"I was feeling guilt," Dickey said, speaking by phone on her way to the airport. "Excitement, guilt, stress — all of it."

Dickey plans to stay with relatives in the Cincinnati area after a 3- to 14-day quarantine, she says, adding that she was "very grateful" to be on her way out.

Meanwhile, Perez is still mulling whether to venture to a supermarket, weighing the risks of getting infected.

But despite the worsening conditions, Perez says there are moments of hope. On Monday evening, residents set off fireworks, and cries of "Go Wuhan!" echoed around his apartment compound.

Perez joined in, shouting "We are all Wuhan people!" His girlfriend cheered and his dog barked, making them feel they were "all in this together."

"We needed that," Perez said. "It lifted us up a bit and gave us some hope."

## Tears shed, joyful times recalled at Kobe Bryant memorial

By JOHN ROGERS Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fans call it The House that Kobe Built, and since Kobe Bryant's shocking death in a helicopter crash mourners by the thousands have gathered outside the glistening steel-and-glass edifice where the Los Angeles Lakers legend made so much basketball history.

The arrivals at downtown Staples Center began soon after word spread that Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, were among nine people killed in Sunday's crash. They continued unabated Monday as people took off from school or work to pay respects to a man with whom many felt a kinship.

"The memories that he gave us as a family were great memories," said Lawrence Perez of North Hollywood, who arrived with his wife, Maureen, and 15-year-old daughter, Desiree. "We could have been at home, but we wanted to be with other people who are kind of going through the same thing."

The Lakers had a game scheduled Tuesday night against the LA Clippers at Staples Center but the NBA postponed it "out of respect" for the Lakers. The next Lakers home game is Friday night against Portland.

The Staples Center, home to the Lakers and Clippers, opened for the 1999-2000 season, just as a 21-year-old Bryant was blossoming. That season the team would win the first of five championships over the next 10 years.

Although the mood there Monday was often somber as people hugged and wiped away tears, many couldn't help but grin at times as they recalled joyful moments Bryant brought to their lives.

"The greatest moment was when I got his autograph his rookie year," Perez said, recalling how he told the teenage Bryant he was destined for greatness. Bryant smiled, shook his hand and said he hoped he'd

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just break into the team's starting lineup sometime soon.

Perez had planned to bring that ball to Bryant's Hall of Fame induction, expected later this year, and ask him to sign it again.

"But that's not going to happen now," he said softly as his wife hugged him and said, "He cried when he heard the news."

As people arrived at the arena they were greeted by a gigantic display of flowers, balloons, votive candles (some with Bryant's photo on them), hats, jerseys, statuettes of angels and photos and paintings of Bryant and his daughter circling the entire area. Some showed father and daughter with angel's wings. Others contained personal messages written in English, Spanish and Chinese, showing the international impact Bryant's career had.

"I left my shoe for him," said Louie Guerrero of Los Angeles, who arrived at the memorial pushing a stroller with his 2-year-old daughter, Lexie, decked out in her own little Lakers uniform. He spontaneously decided to add one of his official Lakers basketball shoes to the memorial after scribbling on it, "We Love You, Kobe."

He walked away with only a sock on his left foot.

Nearby, Michelle Rodriguez of Los Angeles wiped away a tear as she gazed at photos of Bryant with his daughter and his teammates. The 30-year-old emergency room nurse had arrived with her 12-year-old bulldog, Canelle, after working an overnight shift. Both were wearing Lakers jerseys.

"I think everyone could say we loved the team as a whole, but it was different when you saw Kobe play," she said.

"And he was such an awesome man outside of basketball too," she added. "All the work he did in the community, he's a hero to this city."

## **Trial highlights: Bolton takes center stage from afar**

**By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former national security adviser John Bolton took center stage at President Donald Trump's impeachment trial even though he was nowhere near the Capitol.

Bolton's claims in a forthcoming book — that Trump told him he wanted to withhold security aid from Ukraine until it launched investigations into political rival Joe Biden — ramped up pressure on GOP senators to call him to testify.

Trump's legal team has repeatedly insisted there was no linkage, and Trump tweeted on Monday that he never told Bolton such a thing.

Biden's son Hunter also came under scrutiny as Trump's lawyers focused on his high-paying job with a Ukrainian energy company when his father was vice president.

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

### **A BOLT FROM BOLTON**

Bolton's testimony has been the subject of fierce debate for months, but it leaped to the forefront as news leaked of his claims in a forthcoming book. Bolton writes that Trump told him he wanted to withhold security aid from Ukraine until it helped him with investigations into Biden. Bolton's written account, first reported by The New York Times, was confirmed to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the manuscript on the condition of anonymity.

The revelation increases pressure on Republican senators to call Bolton and perhaps other witnesses, a push they have so far resisted. At least four senators would need to buck GOP leaders and form a bipartisan majority to call Bolton or other witnesses. Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine said the report about Bolton's book "strengthens the case" for witnesses, while Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, said it's "increasingly clear that what John Bolton would have to say would be important for those of us asked to render impartial justice."

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Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a key Republican moderate, said she has long been curious about what Bolton might have to say, adding that "I'm still curious."

## A PRESIDENTIAL DENIAL

Trump denied Bolton's claims in tweets early Monday. "I NEVER told John Bolton that the aid to Ukraine was tied to investigations into Democrats, including the Bidens," Trump wrote. "If John Bolton said this, it was only to sell a book."

Trump said people could look at rough transcripts of his call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelinskiy to see there was no pressure for such investigations to get the aid. In that July 25 call, Trump asked Zelinskiy to "do us a favor" with the investigations as he was withholding nearly \$400 million in military aid to the U.S. ally at war with Russia.

Trump falsely claimed Monday that the Democrat-controlled House "never even asked John Bolton to testify." Democrats asked Bolton to testify, but he didn't show up for his deposition. They later declined to subpoena Bolton, as they had others, because he threatened to sue, which could have led to a prolonged court battle.

## BIDENS AND BURISMA

While the news media focused on Bolton, White House lawyers sought to turn scrutiny to Hunter Biden, who served on the board of Burisma, one of Ukraine's largest natural gas companies.

Former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, representing the White House, said Burisma was known to be corrupt and that Hunter Biden served on the board at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine. Bondi offered no evidence of wrongdoing by either Biden, but said Democrats had improperly tried to dismiss questions raised by the younger Biden's role with Burisma.

"Their case crumbles" if there's something worth investigating about the company and Hunter Biden's role, she said.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. said Bondi's complaint about the appearance of a conflict of interest was "as hypocritical as it is irrelevant to the serious evidence before the Senate."

## 'NOTHING TO DEFEND'

Joe Biden, campaigning in Iowa, said he saw no reason for him or his son to testify.

"I have nothing to defend," Biden told reporters. "This is all a game. No one has said I've done anything that was wrong, period. ... The reason he's being impeached is because he tried to get a government to smear me and they wouldn't. Come on."

## BACK TO SCHOOL

The evening livened up when law professor turned Trump lawyer Alan Dershowitz unloaded his bag of dusty law books at the podium to lecture senators on impeachment and how, in his view, a crime was required.

Dershowitz drew wide smiles from Republicans, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and rolling eyes from Democrats. The Harvard Law professor acknowledged his own changed views of impeachment law, and that he voted for Hillary Clinton.

The presentation capped a long day that started with another star-turn attorney, Ken Starr, the prosecutor in Bill Clinton's impeachment, defending Trump.

When Dershowitz was done, Republican senators lined up to shake his hand, as did a Democrat, West Virginia's Joe Manchin. One of the House Democratic lawyers, Norm Eisen, a Harvard Law alum, walked over from the prosecutors table and gave the professor a bear hug.

## WHAT'S AHEAD

The White House legal team is set to wrap up its case Tuesday. Senators are expected to submit written questions to the prosecution and defense later in the week before a vote on whether to call new witnesses or admit new documents.

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Associated Press writer Bill Barrow in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, contributed to this report.

## What to know for year two of the Trump tax plan

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL AP Personal Finance Writer

It's that time again.

The IRS began accepting and processing tax returns for individuals on Monday.

Last year's filing season was an adjustment for taxpayers and industry professionals alike as it was the first under a massive overhaul of federal tax law. While this year's season is expected to be more sedate, there are a few tweaks to be aware of.

### STANDARD DEDUCTION

The standard deduction doubled under the new tax law that took effect in 2018. In turn, the number of taxpayers who took that instead of itemizing on their taxes jumped sharply. An estimated 90% of taxpayers are expected to take the deduction this year.

While the standard deduction usually increases each year for inflation, it's worth keeping the figure in mind as taxpayers adjust to the new system. Some people may still want to run through the exercise of deciding whether to itemize or not. The decision comes down to whether your deductible expenses are greater than the standard deduction. Tax preparation software or a tax professional can walk you through this with ease.

Single individuals now get a standard deduction of \$12,200 and married individuals filing jointly qualify for a standard deduction of \$24,400. Head of household individuals get a standard deduction of \$18,350.

### HEALTH INSURANCE

New this year: There is no longer a penalty on federal taxes for not having health insurance, something that was put in place by the Affordable Care Act. However, some states may still penalize you for not having health insurance, warns Lisa Greene-Lewis, a CPA and tax expert at TurboTax.

### DIVORCE

Anyone who got divorced after 2018 and pays alimony can no longer deduct alimony payments. And ex-spouses who receive alimony are no longer required to claim it as income. Got divorced before 2018? The old rules still apply unless you update your decree to state specifically that the new rules are reflected.

### EXTENDERS

Congress recently passed a bill that include a few tax extenders, which renew tax provisions that had expired or were going to expire soon. Here are a handful that you may want to take note of:

— People who are required to pay private mortgage insurance along with their mortgage can once again deduct it. Kathy Pickering, chief tax officer at H&R Block said that this represents a substantial expense for some — in the \$2,500 to \$4,500 range.

— Another home-related extender: a \$500 lifetime credit for making certain energy efficient improvements to your home, such as the purchase of a high efficiency furnace. While many people have already taken advantage of this in years past, Pickering said newer homeowners may want to consider if they can benefit.

— People who suffered a foreclosure and had their debt canceled just got some relief.

The IRS considers that canceled debt as income and therefore subject to taxes. However, there had long been a provision that would waive this if the foreclosure was on a primary residence. Last year, that was not the case.

The waiver has now been reinstated and is extended retroactively, so people who had to pay tax on a canceled debt of this sort can file an amendment. Pickering says this is a provision that impacts few people but "has an extraordinary financial impact."

— To claim medical expenses on your taxes, the total must exceed a certain percentage of your adjusted gross income. That threshold was set to go up to 10% this year, making it harder for as many people to qualify. But the law extended the prior threshold of 7.5%.

### CRYPTOCURRENCY

The IRS has been trying to keep up with the popularity of cryptocurrency, such as Bitcoin. Tax experts say it's a grey area that is slowly being clarified. But for now, cryptocurrency is generally seen as property



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not currency. So, anyone who trades in it faces the same tax implications as if they were trading stock. The IRS said it is aware many taxpayers have improperly reported or failed to report transactions in the past. As such, it is increasing its educational efforts and criminal investigations. Additionally, all taxpayers will have to answer a question about their involvement in any virtual currency transactions. If they have received, sold, sent, exchanged or otherwise acquired any virtual currency, they must fill out a new form. Tax experts say there may still be some confusion but suggest anyone who does trade cryptocurrency should keep close track of all their own activity to make sure they are not stepping on the wrong side of the law.

## FREE FILE

The IRS has long offered options for many taxpayers to file online for free, but it may be a bit easier to navigate this year.

Taxpayers can use the IRS Free File system, which is provided by a number of tax preparation companies, if they make less than \$69,000 a year.

However, reporting by non-profit news organization ProPublica found that some tax preparation companies had added code to their Free File pages that hid them from search engines and diverted many users to paid products. The IRS has since updated its agreement with the tax prep industry and the companies are barred from hiding their free products.

Additionally, the IRS has tried to help avoid consumer confusion between the IRS Free File system and free or low-cost versions offered by the companies themselves. To make sure you are using the IRS Free File system, go to [IRS.gov/freefile](https://www.irs.gov/freefile) to review your choices.

Other options to file for free remain intact. These include those provided by the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program or Tax Counseling for the Elderly, offered by AARP, as well as the IRS Free File Fillable forms, which are electronic versions of its paper forms.

## In #metoo era, Kobe and other athletes often get a pass

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

DENVER (AP) — Folded conveniently into the narratives about his “complicated past” was the detail about Kobe Bryant that could’ve wrecked him.

It was a rape allegation by a 19-year-old employee of a hotel. It happened in 2003. Some argued that making that life-altering detail a mere footnote to the stories detailing Bryant’s life and unexpected death was the human thing to do on such an awful day. Others felt it was another example of an icon being given a pass of sorts because he was a successful athlete.

While dozens of high-profile figures — including senators, movie producers, news anchors and comedians (but not the president or the newest Supreme Court justice) — have seen their careers vanquished by allegations of sex abuse and domestic violence, high-profile sports figures have skated past similar accusations at a far more frequent rate.

“We look up to them to win games,” said Miki Turner, a longtime journalist who is now a professor at USC’s Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. “But we don’t really scrutinize their values as closely as we might for politicians or news anchors. I think there’s just a different line there.”

Here’s a quick list from the recent past: relief pitcher Roberto Osuna, soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo, running back Ezekiel Elliott, quarterbacks Jameis Winston and Ben Roethlisberger, Sacramento Kings coach Luke Walton and Super Bowl 54-bound receiver Tyreek Hill of the Chiefs. All are among the sports stars who have had stomach-churning allegations leveled against them but have skirted major repercussions — from their leagues, the teams, law enforcement or, in large part, in the court of public opinion.

“There’s something about the instant gratification of having a game that night versus, say, being an actor and taking a year to make a movie,” says Courtney Cox, a former ESPN staffer who teaches a class on race and gender in sport at University of Oregon. “If (sports stars are) treated differently, part of that is the instant way they’re visible, and the way they are able to rectify and rebrand themselves” by the final buzzer of the next game.

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In other words, winning makes up for a lot.

The case of troubled receiver Antonio Brown could be instructive. He was released by the Patriots earlier this season when rape allegations surfaced. The NFL is investigating the charges, and not until that is over will we know what appetite teams might have to sign him.

Among the central questions in the Bryant story, and how his life is being remembered, is whether the pass he received in the obituaries and tributes was more about the passage of time than any bias toward him, or athletes in general.

It's been 17 years since the allegations. A good section of Bryant's fan base either wasn't born, or was barely able to understand the news, when reports of his case first surfaced.

And yet, here we are in the #metoo era, in which everyone's past is easily researched on Google, and any transgression or poorly thought-out meme on social media is not only discoverable, but has the potential to change the narrative for any celebrity.

Allegations of sex abuse are leveled with greater frequency against the rich and famous; more of the accusers, but certainly not all, are increasingly treated with greater respect, and their complaints are being taken more seriously.

"I don't know if something like that happened now, even with Kobe Bryant, if people would be as forgiving in this current climate," Turner said.

But Bryant was a sports celebrity, not a movie or media star, and that reality almost certainly impacts the calculus, regardless of era.

"Sometimes, it's OK to not have a right answer," Cox said. "We're all very morally righteous with our Twitter fingers. The idea of the black-and-whiteness of it all. But it's not that easy. We grieve family members who had problematic pasts. But with athletes, it seems like we need a neat, tidy story even when it's not always there."

For celebrities who aren't athletes — don't play a game every other night, aren't as frequently accessible for the media and, so, don't have as many chances to shift the conversation — the story lines aren't as malleable.

The torrent of allegations against movie producer Harvey Weinstein in 2017 marked a turning point in the #metoo era. Hollywood and, to some extent, Washington, took the brunt of the blame. Kevin Spacey, Louis C.K., Al Franken, Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose and Placido Domingo are a small part of a list of more than 250 public figures in entertainment, politics and media who have been accused of wrongdoing since the start of #metoo. The majority have seen their careers either stymied or completely brought to a halt. There's very little doubt over which paragraph in their obituaries will contain details about the lowest moments of their lives.

And while nobody sheds any tears about that, there's an argument to be made that, with some exceptions, such as Woody Allen and Donald Trump, the leagues, the law and the public have meted out a different kind of judgement for them than for their brethren in sports.

Bryant's case was litigated both in the media and the courtroom. But the case never went to trial, and though sponsors cut ties with Bryant in the aftermath, his losses didn't last long. Bryant walked away from his charges — chastened and clearly a changed man. He issued an apology through his attorney and later settled a civil case brought by his accuser.

He missed a few games while attending hearings in the case, but the best of his career, and his life, was still to come.

In the 17 years that followed, Bryant became a father of four girls and a vocal champion of women in sports. He became even better known for his alpha-male psyche and his uncompromising work ethic. To some, he is the GOAT — Greatest Of All Time — in a sport that triggers plenty of discussion about that title.

But that's not the only part of his legacy that's open for debate.

## IS tries to stage comeback amid rising US-Iran tensions

By **BASSEM MROUE** Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The Islamic State group's self-styled "caliphate" across parts of Iraq and Syria seemed largely defeated last year, with the loss of its territory, the killing of its founder in a U.S. raid and an unprecedented crackdown on its social media propaganda machine.

But tensions between the United States and Iran and the resulting clash over the U.S. military presence in the region provide a comeback opportunity for the extremist group, whose remnants have been gradually building up a guerrilla campaign over the past year, experts say.

American troops in Iraq had to pause their operations against IS for nearly two weeks amid the tensions. From the other side, Iranian-backed Iraqi militiamen who once focused on fighting the militants have turned their attention to evicting U.S. troops from the Middle East.

In the meantime, Islamic State group sleeper cells intensified ambushes in Iraq and Syria in the past few weeks, killing and wounding dozens of their opponents in both countries. Activists and residents say the attacks have intensified since the U.S. killed top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani in a Jan. 3 drone strike at Baghdad's airport.

It is not clear whether the uptick is related to the repercussions that followed from the strike, and it is possible some of the attacks had been planned before Soleimani's killing. U.S. officials deny seeing any particular increase in IS activities. "They haven't taken advantage of it, as far as we can see," said James Jeffrey, the State Department envoy to the international coalition fighting the Islamic State.

Mervan Qamishlo, a spokesman for Syria's U.S.-backed Kurdish-led force, said the intensification of IS attacks began even earlier, since October, when Turkey began a military operation against Kurdish fighters in northern Syria.

Still, the militants clearly gained at least temporary breathing room as the killing of Soleimani, along with a senior Iraqi militia leader, brought Iran and the U.S. to the brink of all-out war and outraged Iraqis, who considered the strike a flagrant breach of sovereignty.

On Jan. 5, Iraq's parliament called for the expulsion of the 5,200 U.S. troops from the country who have been there since 2014 on a mission to train Iraqi forces and assist in the fight against IS. The U.S.-led coalition then put the fight against IS on hold to focus on protecting its troops and bases. It said last week that it had resumed those operations after a 10-day halt.

"This tension will for sure help Daesh, as all forces fighting it become busy with other matters," warned Abdullah Suleiman Ali, a Syrian researcher who focuses on jihadi groups, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

Among other things, he said Iran-U.S. tensions help give IS the opportunity to restructure as its new leader, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, strengthens his grip. Al-Qurayshi was announced in the post after longtime leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed by a U.S. raid in Syria in October.

"The day the American-Iranian clash began, Daesh started intensifying its attacks," said Rami Aburrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor.

On Jan. 14, IS launched a cross border attack from Syria into Iraq, killing an Iraqi officer. A day later, IS fighters attacked an Iraqi force in the central Salaheddine region, killing two soldiers and wounding five. Two days later, an Iraqi intelligence major was killed in a car bomb north of Baghdad.

One of the deadliest attacks occurred in Syria on Jan. 14, when IS fighters stole some 2,000 cattle from a village near the eastern town of Mayadeen. One of the four shepherds that own the cattle informed authorities, and a Syrian government military force was sent to the area, where they were met by IS fire.

As the forces returned to their base, IS gunmen laid an ambush, killing 11 troops and pro-government fighters as well as two shepherds.

IS published photos showing bodies of soldiers said to have been killed in the attack, along with a destroyed armored vehicle and an overturned truck.

On the same day, seven shepherds were found shot dead west of the eastern city of Deir el-Zour. On Jan. 4, 21 shepherds were found shot in the back of their heads, their hands were tied behind their backs.

Dozens of members of the U.S.-backed Kurdish-led Syrian democratic Forces have been killed over the past months in attacks claimed by IS as well.

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With the painful strikes, IS is “taking advantage to boost its influence” and send a message to their supporters that they are still strong, said Omar Abu Laila, an activist from Deir el-Zour now based in Europe. “Some civilians don’t dare leave their homes after sunset because of fear of Daesh,” Abu Laila said.

The group is also trying to restore its presence on social media and the Internet — a key component to its ability to raise financial support from abroad and recruit new fighters.

IS members and supporters have for years sown fear and projected power with the grisly videos they released on social media showing beheadings, amputations and victims burned to death or thrown from buildings.

In recent weeks, European authorities, coordinated by Europol, have shut down thousands of IS propaganda platforms and communication channels in an unprecedented crackdown. In particular, the crackdown forced IS’s news agency and other channels off the Telegram text messaging system, the group’s primary outlet since 2015.

“The Europol campaign of November had a massive impact on ISIS support networks on Telegram,” said Amarnath Amarasingam, a terrorism researcher at Queen’s University in Ontario, Canada.

Since then, the extremists have shifted to other messaging platforms including the Russia-based Tam-Tam, Canada-based Hoop Messenger and BCM Messenger. They also tried to get back on Twitter using hacked accounts, Amarasingam said.

So far, those efforts have not been very successful as international authorities work to chase them down on those outlets as well.

“None of this is really matching the presence they had on Telegram from 2015 onwards,” Amarasingam said.

## News of Bolton book sends jolt through impeachment trial

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A single paper copy in a nondescript envelope arrived at the White House on Dec. 30. Four weeks later, news of John Bolton’s book manuscript about his time as President Donald Trump’s national security adviser has exploded into public view, sending a jolt through the president’s impeachment trial.

The book contains an account of an August conversation in which Bolton says Trump told him that he wanted to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars in security aid from Ukraine until it helped him with investigations into political rival Joe Biden.

It’s a dramatic eyewitness rebuttal to claims by Trump and his legal team that the president didn’t hold up the aid for political reasons. The account immediately gave Democrats new fuel in their pursuit of sworn testimony from Bolton and other witnesses, a question expected to be taken up later this week by the Republican-led Senate.

Bolton has already told lawmakers that he is willing to testify, despite the president’s order barring aides from cooperating in the probe.

Within hours of the first report, a pre-order link was posted for “The Room Where It Happened; A White House Memoir.” The homage to the song from the smash Broadway hit “Hamilton” is styled cheekily inside an oval on the image of the book cover released late Sunday.

Bolton’s account was confirmed to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the manuscript on the condition of anonymity to discuss the book. It was first reported by The New York Times.

White House aides have harbored concerns for months about what Bolton might reveal in the book, believing that the former adviser harbored a grudge over policy and personal differences with the president — not least about how he left the administration. Trump insists he “terminated” Bolton, while the former aide has maintained that he quit.

Bolton’s acrimonious departure from the White House came a day before Trump ultimately released the Ukraine aid on Sept. 11. Since leaving his post, he has avoided publicly commenting on his time in the administration, instead quietly writing the 528-page book, which is set to be published on March 17.

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Despite its delivery to the National Security Council last month for pre-publication review, the book's contents were kept to a relatively small circle in the White House that did not include members of the communications staff, officials said. Such a review is standard for the works of former officials with security clearances.

National Security Council spokesman John Ulyot said Monday that "No White House personnel outside NSC have reviewed the manuscript." Still, officials said the White House counsel's office was briefed on some of the substantive claims. The White House would not say whether Trump, who last week offered reporters his most expansive explanation for why he didn't want Bolton to testify before the Senate, had been briefed.

"The problem with John is it's a national security problem," Trump told reporters in Davos, Switzerland, on Wednesday. "He knows some of my thoughts. He knows what I think about leaders. What happens if he reveals what I think about a certain leader and it's not very positive and then I have to deal on behalf of the country?"

He added: "It's going to be very hard. It's going to make the job very hard."

Until Sunday, the book's publisher, Simon & Schuster, wouldn't even confirm the existence of the book, for which The AP first reported that Bolton received a \$2 million advance. Thanks to pre-orders, the book was already No. 13 on the Amazon.com bestseller list as of Monday evening.

Trump called Bolton's claims "false" Monday, while acknowledging that he had yet to see the manuscript. Further, the president and his allies seized on the timing of the revelations about the book to allege that Bolton was seeking to boost his book sales.

"It's really pretty remarkable that the leak to the NYTimes about the alleged contents of John Bolton's book coincided precisely with the pre-order page going live on Amazon," tweeted Trump campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh. "It's almost as if it were intended to boost sales."

"I think the timing of all of this is very, very suspect," White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham told Fox News, noting it came a day after the Trump team delivered legal arguments before the Senate on Saturday: "And then suddenly, this manuscript has magically appeared in the hands of The New York Times, making very, very big claims."

She noted further that Bolton used the same literary agent as former FBI director James Comey and "Anonymous," the Trump administration official who wrote a critical 2018 New York Times op-ed and a book released last year.

In a joint statement, Simon & Schuster, Bolton and his literary agency Javelin rejected the White House claims.

"Ambassador John Bolton, Simon & Schuster, and Javelin Literary categorically state that there was absolutely no coordination with the New York Times or anyone else regarding the appearance of information about his book, THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENED, at online booksellers," they said. "Any assertion to the contrary is unfounded speculation."

Meanwhile, the book remains enmeshed in the review process over the manuscript's use of direct quotes and other material from meetings and foreign leader discussions, according to a person familiar with the matter, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person wasn't authorized to speak on the record.

The White House has requested that Bolton remove material it considers classified, the person said. In a statement Sunday, Bolton's attorney, Charles J. Cooper, said it is his and Bolton's "firm belief that the manuscript contained no information that could reasonably be considered classified."

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AP writers Hillel Italie in New York and Eric Tucker and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Bloomberg creates a parallel presidential race. Can he win?**

**By KATHLEEN RONAYNE and ANDREW DeMILLO Associated Press**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — When the leading Democratic presidential candidates marked Martin Luther King Jr. Day by linking arms and marching through South Carolina's capital, Michael Bloomberg was nowhere near the early primary state.

The former New York mayor was instead in Arkansas, tossing out candy at a King Day parade and enjoying his status as the only presidential hopeful in town.

"Mike Boomerang?" a woman asked, as the billionaire businessman walked by.

"Mike Bloomberg," a supporter clarified. "He's running for president."

Bloomberg is running, but he's on his own track, essentially creating a parallel race to the nomination with no precedent. While his competitors are hunkered down in the four states with the earliest primaries, Bloomberg is almost everywhere else — a Minnesota farm, a Utah co-working space, an office opening in Maine. He's staked his hopes on states like Texas, California and Arkansas that vote on March 3, aiming to disrupt the Democratic primary right around the time it's typically settling on a front-runner. Or, should Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, be that front-runner, Bloomberg could be a backstop to Democrats still looking for a moderate choice.

Skipping the early voting states and banking on success in later delegate-rich contests has never been done successfully. But no candidate has ever brought the financial firepower that Bloomberg can — he is worth an estimated \$60 billion and has already spent more than \$200 million building a campaign in more than two dozen states, taking him well past Super Tuesday.

"Every other campaign thinks about this as a sequential set of contests. They spend time in Iowa and New Hampshire ... hoping that they'll (get a) momentum bounce from one to the next," said Dan Kaninen, Bloomberg's states director. "We're thinking about this as a national conversation."

There's little public polling available to measure Bloomberg's progress. National polls show his support in the mid to high single digits, similar to that of former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

But interviews with voters and party officials across the Super Tuesday states show Bloomberg is still just starting to make an impression. While officials marveled at the inescapable ambition of Bloomberg's advertising, many voters still do not know who he is, or know only what they've seen on television. Others noted they were interested but were still waiting to see who emerged as a clear leader in earlier contests.

"I've been trying to read up on him to figure out if he's going to be my key player," said Cassandra Barbee, a hotel worker who watched Bloomberg in the Arkansas parade. She said his ads about helping people access health care appeal to her.

Bloomberg isn't the sole candidate campaigning beyond the first four states. Elizabeth Warren's campaign said it has more than 1,000 staffers, the same number Bloomberg has been touting, across 31 states. All the major campaigns have operations in California, the biggest delegate prize, and several are up and running in states like Texas and North Carolina.

But no candidate's reach matches Bloomberg's. He had spent more than \$225 million on television and digital advertisements as of mid-January, according to the tracking firm Advertising Analytics, and he's run television ads in at least 27 states. That's 10 times what each of the other leading candidates has spent, according to the firm's tracking.

Bloomberg has already campaigned in every Super Tuesday state, in addition to states like Florida, Michigan, and Ohio, which vote later but are major general election battleground states where Bloomberg thinks his message will resonate. Meanwhile, his campaign pushes out a steady stream of endorsements, policy plans and ads that keep him in the headlines as Iowa's caucuses near.

"He's definitely piquing my interest," said Erica Moore, a guidance counselor at Little Rock schools. Moore said she's aware of Bloomberg because his ads air constantly but said she wasn't sure whether she'd vote for him.

How exactly Bloomberg plans to win enough delegates to capture the nomination is unclear. The campaign acknowledges public polls show he hasn't hit the 15% threshold he will need to win delegates, which are

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awarded proportionally statewide and by congressional district. Kanninen would not set hard targets for what success looks like on Super Tuesday, when a third of all delegates are awarded. Bloomberg needs to win some delegates, Kanninen said, but regardless of performance, "we're prepared to move on and compete vigorously."

But winning a share of delegates isn't enough, said Democratic strategist Bill Carrick, who argued that Bloomberg needs to win several Super Tuesday states to be credible. And Bloomberg's anti-Trump advertising may not move voters his way in the primary, Carrick said.

"I think that people are going to separate out whether they want him to have a robust effort in the general election taking on Trump versus him being the candidate," he said.

The best boost to Bloomberg's chances may be what happens in the weeks leading up to Super Tuesday. As national and early state polls show Sanders in a strong position, Bloomberg could emerge as a moderate alternative should former Vice President Joe Biden or other candidates look weak. While Bloomberg has said he would support Sanders if he were the nominee, the two differ sharply on policy.

Winning the primary isn't Bloomberg's only aim. He hopes his ads and organizing soften the ground for whomever Democrats pick to challenge Trump and help Democrats in down-ticket races. Bloomberg has committed to continue to spend millions — keeping offices and organizers in battleground states — regardless of whether he is the nominee.

One of those states is North Carolina, where the campaign announced this week it had more than 100 paid employees. That's a staffing benchmark more typical for a general election campaign. Hardly a local newscast or game show passes by in a major TV market that a Bloomberg commercial isn't airing.

"He's really giving North Carolina Democrats the chance to fight in the general election by running ads now," said Justin Vollmer, a top Bloomberg adviser in the state.

Those ads tout his record on issues like health care and gun control and attack Trump, branding him a "dangerous demagogue" and calling for his removal from office. "Mike will get it done" is the former mayor's slogan.

A former Republican and a businessman, Bloomberg believes he'll appeal to moderates and conservatives frustrated with the president. But he has clear competition on that argument from both Biden and Buttigieg.

Judy Eason McIntyre, 74, who attended a Bloomberg speech last week in Tulsa, Oklahoma, thinks he would match up well against Trump, but that's not enough to win her vote.

"I'm one of those older black folks that's going to stick with Biden," said McIntyre, a former state senator and longtime Democratic Party activist. "But out of the candidates I see, being practical, he and Michael Bloomberg are the ones who could beat Trump, and that's what I'm after."

Bloomberg's campaign says it's not focused on comparison with other Democrats.

"We're not really running against the field — we're running against Donald Trump," Kanninen said.

Bloomberg recently brought his anti-Trump message to Utah, where Democratic presidential primary ads are "relatively unheard of," said Jeff Merchant, chair of the Utah Democratic Party. Speaking in Salt Lake City last week, Bloomberg appealed to left-leaning voters who feel overlooked in a state that hasn't supported a Democrat for president since 1964.

"We shouldn't be writing off any state no matter how red people think it is," Bloomberg said while speaking at a modern co-working space.

In some Super Tuesday states, Bloomberg is coming with a history that won't necessarily help him court moderates and disaffected Republicans. In Virginia, which offers the third-most Super Tuesday delegates, he helped Democrats win full control of the state legislature for the first time in a generation last year through spending by his gun control group, Everytown for Gun Safety.

Democrats are now set to pass a slate of gun control measures, prompting the National Rifle Association to put Bloomberg's face on a billboard. Such notoriety could serve to bolster his credentials with Democrats but turn off voters in gun-friendly southern states.

Perhaps the biggest question of Bloomberg's candidacy is whether an ad blitz is enough to win over

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primary voters. In California, Republican businesswoman Meg Whitman lost statewide in 2010 after spending nearly \$100 million, losing to the better-known Democrat Jerry Brown.

And in Texas, it wasn't a barrage of TV ads that laid the groundwork for Democrat Beto O'Rourke to nearly win a Senate seat in 2018. It was his up-close-and-personal campaign that took him to every single county that captured voters' attention.

So far, no major Texas officials have backed Bloomberg, even after he finished a five-city bus tour through the state earlier this month.

But Garry Mauro, who was the Texas chairman for both Clintons' presidential campaigns, sees Bloomberg's strategy as sensible. Mauro, who supports Biden, says no candidate but Bloomberg has the money to saturate Texas' many television markets, and there's no guarantee that a clear front-runner will emerge before Super Tuesday.

"He's betting on nobody's getting the momentum, and he can get his own momentum on TV," he said. "That's a totally different approach than what we've ever seen before."

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Ronayne reported from Sacramento, California. Associated Press writers Lindsay Whitehurst in Salt Lake City; Alan Suderman in Richmond, Va.; Paul J. Weber in Austin, Texas; Gary Robertson in Raleigh, N.C.; Nicholas Riccardi in Denver; Steve Karnowski in Minneapolis; Sean Murphy in Tulsa, Okla.; and Kimberlee Kruesi in Nashville, Tenn., contributed to this report.

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

## 'I'm being raped': Weinstein accuser details alleged assault

By **MICHAEL R. SISK** and **TOM HAYS** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Harvey Weinstein accuser Mimi Haley testified Monday that weeks after arriving in New York to work for one of his shows, she found herself fighting in vain as the once-revered showbiz honcho pushed her onto a bed and sexually assaulted her, undeterred by her kicks and pleas of, "no, please don't do this, I don't want it."

Haley was the first to testify of the two women whose allegations led to Weinstein's New York City criminal case. Sobbing at times, she described how the film producer turned a friendly meeting at his Manhattan apartment in July 2006 into a terrifying ordeal that had her contemplating escape plans as he forcibly performed oral sex on her.

"I was kicking, I was pushing, I was trying to get away from his grip," the former "Project Runway" production assistant testified. "He held me down and kept pushing me down to the bed. Every time I tried to get up he pushed me down."

Haley, now 42, told jurors she thought, "I'm being raped," and wondered "If I scream rape, will someone hear me?" She said she told Weinstein she was menstruating in an attempt to deter him, but that didn't stop him.

"I checked out and decided to endure it," she said. "That was the safest thing I could do."

Yet just two weeks later, Haley said, she was accepting an invitation to Weinstein's hotel room, where he pulled her into bed for sex.

Haley said she "just felt like an idiot" for letting Weinstein convince her to meet again, but thought seeing him could help her regain power as she tried to make sense of the alleged assault. Haley said she didn't want to be intimate with Weinstein, but said she didn't think Weinstein forced her to have sex.

Weinstein lawyer Damon Cheronis zeroed in on Haley's continued interactions with Weinstein, scrutinizing her emails and calendar entries marked "HW" during cross-examination. He noted that she kept exchanging warm messages with him, pitched him on a TV show and made several trips on his dime, including jetting off to Los Angeles the day after the alleged assault and flying to London about a month later.

When they couldn't connect before she left London, she sent Weinstein's assistant an email lamenting: "totally bummed to have missed you guys."



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Explaining the fraught dynamics, Haley said she no longer feared Weinstein after "he basically had taken what he wanted" in the hotel room encounter and "wasn't pursuing me in that manner" any longer.

In what seemed designed to be an aha moment, Cheronis asked Haley if the reason she kept in touch with Weinstein was "because he never sexually assaulted you."

Haley pulled up the microphone, smiled exasperatedly and said: "No."

In all, six accusers are expected to testify, but because of the statute of limitations and other legal technicalities, Weinstein is charged in only two incidents.

They are the alleged rape of an aspiring actress in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and the alleged sexual assault of Haley. Under New York law applicable at the time, Weinstein is not being charged with rape in connection with Haley's accusations.

Weinstein, 67, has insisted any sexual encounters were consensual.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they have been victims of sexual assault, unless they agree to be named as Haley has.

Haley went public with her allegations at an October 2017 news conference, appearing in front of cameras alongside lawyer Gloria Allred, who also represents Sciorra and other Weinstein accusers.

Haley, born in Helsinki, Finland, and raised in Sweden, said she met Weinstein while in her 20s at the 2004 London premiere of the Leonardo DiCaprio film "The Aviator."

They crossed paths again in Cannes in 2006 and, when she expressed interest in working on one of his productions, he invited her to his hotel room and asked for a massage. She declined, saying she was "extremely humiliated."

More meetings followed, and Weinstein secured Haley a job helping on the set of "Project Runway," the reality competition show he produced. She testified that before the alleged assault, Weinstein showed up at her apartment and begged her to join him on a trip to Paris for a fashion show.

"At one point, because I just didn't know how to shut it down so to speak. ... So I said, "You know you have a terrible reputation with women, I've heard,"" Haley testified.

She said that offended Weinstein and he stepped back and said, "What have you heard?"

Asked by prosecutor Meghan Hast if she had any romantic or sexual interest in Weinstein, Haley firmly answered: "Not at all, no."

Haley said she didn't call the police about the alleged assault because she was working in the U.S. on a tourist visa and was scared of Weinstein's power and connections, telling jurors: "I didn't think I'd stand a chance."

Weinstein was jotting notes in a thick yellow notebook through most of Haley's account, but looked at her and shook his head when she described their encounter. Weinstein has not been charged in connection with that incident.

The jury of seven men and five women heard last week from "Sopranos" actress Annabella Sciorra, who testified that Weinstein overpowered and raped her after barging into her apartment in the mid-1990s. While outside the statute of limitations for criminal charges, Sciorra's allegations could be a factor as prosecutors look to prove Weinstein has engaged in a pattern of predatory behavior.

Jurors also heard from Dr. Barbara Ziv, a forensic psychiatrist who said that most sex assault victims continue to have contact with their attackers, often under threat of retaliation if the victims tell anyone what happened.

On the stand Monday, Haley said she dealt with the alleged assaults by compartmentalizing, occasionally interacting with Weinstein on a professional basis bypassing along scripts from friends or discussing work opportunities.

"Honestly, I didn't know how to deal with it so it's almost like I put it away in a box, like it didn't happen and I just carried along as usual," Haley said.

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This story has been corrected to show that Mimi Haley was born in Helsinki, Finland, not England as prosecutors initially said. And to show that Haley says she was assaulted by Weinstein in July 2006, not

June 2006.

On Twitter, follow Michael Sisak at [twitter.com/mikesisak](https://twitter.com/mikesisak) and Tom Hays at [twitter.com/aptomhays](https://twitter.com/aptomhays)

For more coverage visit: [apnews.com/HarveyWeinstein](https://apnews.com/HarveyWeinstein)

## NY, feds sue 'Pharma Bro' for 'scheme' to keep drug price up

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — State and federal authorities sued imprisoned entrepreneur Martin Shkreli on Monday over tactics that shielded a profitable drug from competition after a price hike made the so-called "Pharma Bro" infamous.

Shkreli was scorned as the bad-boy face of pharmaceuticals profiteering after he engineered a roughly 4,000% increase in the price of a decades-old medication for a sometimes life-threatening parasitic infection.

Monday's lawsuit, filed by the New York attorney general's office and the Federal Trade Commission, centers on subsequent actions by Shkreli and his former company.

They "held this critical drug hostage from patients and competitors as they illegally sought to maintain their monopoly," Attorney General Letitia James said in a statement.

At least four potential competitors have so far been kept from making cheaper generic versions of the medication, the suit says.

Lawyer Benjamin Brafman said Shkreli "looks forward to defeating this baseless and unprecedented attempt by the FTC to sue an individual for monopolizing a market."

Shkreli, 36, is serving a seven-year prison sentence for a securities-fraud conviction related to hedge funds he ran before getting into the pharmaceuticals industry.

Shkreli was CEO of Turing Pharmaceuticals -- later called Vyera Pharmaceuticals LLC and Phoenix AG -- in 2015, when it acquired the rights to a drug called Daraprim. It is used to treat toxoplasmosis, an infection that can be deadly for people with HIV or other immune-system problems and can cause serious problems for children born to women infected while pregnant. Hospitalized patients typically take the drug daily for several weeks, and sometimes for months or even years, according to the lawsuit.

The company boosted the cost from less than \$20 to \$750 per pill.

"Should be a very handsome investment for all of us," Shkreli put it in an email to a contact at the time.

The increase left some patients facing co-pays as high as \$16,000 and sparked an outcry that fueled congressional hearings.

Then the company "kept the price of Daraprim astronomically high by illegally boxing out the competition," FTC official Gail Levine said in a statement Monday.

The drug's patent protection had expired, but the company used what's known as a "closed distribution system" to restrict who could buy it -- meaning that companies interested in making a generic version of Daraprim couldn't get enough pills to do required testing, according to the lawsuit. Many passages are redacted; the AG's office explained that its investigation may have involved competitive corporate information.

The drug had previously been available from various wholesalers and distributors, but it was moved to closed distribution a few months before Turing bought the rights to it.

The lawsuit also accuses the company of maneuvering to cut off potential rivals' access to suppliers of a key ingredient for the medication and to data they would want to evaluate the drug's market potential.

The "elaborate scheme to prevent generic competition" has likely cost consumers and other drug buyers tens of millions of dollars, the suit says.

To date, there is no generic version of Daraprim on the U.S. market.

The suit also names the company's current chairman, Kevin Mulleady. Messages were left at a possible phone number for him and sent to an email address possibly associated with him.

The suit seeks unspecified financial relief and penalties, plus an order barring Shkreli and Mulleady from ever owning or working for any pharmaceutical company.

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"We won't allow 'Pharma Bros' to manipulate the market and line their pockets at the expense of vulnerable patients and the health care system," said James, a Democrat.

Shkreli raised eyebrows with his behavior both in business and elsewhere. He bought a one-of-a-kind, unreleased Wu-Tang Clan album for \$2 million, called members of Congress "imbeciles," taunted prosecutors in the securities-fraud case against him, got kicked off of Twitter for harassing a female journalist and spent countless hours livestreaming himself from his apartment.

While awaiting sentencing on his 2017 conviction, he offered his online followers a \$5,000 bounty for a lock of former Democratic presidential nominee and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's hair. His lawyers said it was a joke, but a judge revoked Shkreli's bail and jailed him.

At his 2018 sentencing, Shkreli choked up, admitted making many mistakes and said he'd evolved.

"There is no conspiracy to take down Martin Shkreli," he said. "I took down Martin Shkreli."

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 28, the 28th day of 2020. There are 338 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 28, 1973, a cease-fire officially went into effect in the Vietnam War, a day after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords by the United States, North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

On this date:

In A.D. 814, Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne died in Aachen in present-day Germany.

In 1547, England's King Henry VIII died; he was succeeded by his 9-year-old son, Edward VI.

In 1813, the novel "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen was first published anonymously in London.

In 1878, the first daily college newspaper, Yale News (now Yale Daily News), began publication in New Haven, Connecticut.

In 1911, the notorious Hope Diamond was sold by jeweler Pierre Cartier to socialites Edward and Evalyn McLean of Washington, D.C., for \$180,000.

In 1915, the American merchant vessel SS William P. Frye, en route to England with a cargo of wheat, became the first U.S. ship to be sunk during World War I by a German cruiser, the SS Prinz Eitel Friedrich, even though the United States was not at war.

In 1916, Louis D. Brandeis was nominated by President Woodrow Wilson to the Supreme Court; Brandeis became the court's first Jewish member.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made his first national TV appearance on "Stage Show," a CBS program hosted by Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey.

In 1960, the National Football League awarded franchises to Dallas and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

In 1977, actor-comedian Freddie Prinze, 22, co-star of the NBC-TV show "Chico and the Man," shot and mortally wounded himself at the Beverly Comstock Hotel (he died the following day).

In 1980, six U.S. diplomats who had avoided being taken hostage at their embassy in Tehran flew out of Iran with the help of Canadian diplomats.

In 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff from Cape Canaveral, killing all seven crew members, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

Ten years ago: Major world powers opened talks in London seeking an end to the conflict in Afghanistan. President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden announced \$8 billion in federal grants for high-speed rail projects nationwide during a visit to Tampa, Florida. Embattled Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke won Senate confirmation for a second term.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama phoned Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (TSEE'-prahs) to congratulate him on his party's election victory and told him the U.S. would work closely with Greece to help it pursue long-term prosperity. At a farewell ceremony for Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, Obama called him a true American patriot who devoted his life to the United States.

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One year ago: The Justice Department unsealed criminal charges against Chinese tech giant Huawei (WAH'-way), a top company executive and several subsidiaries, alleging that the company stole trade secrets and violated U.S. sanctions. A U.S. envoy said negotiators for the United States and Taliban insurgents had reached "agreements in principle" on key issues for a peace deal that would end 17 years of war in Afghanistan.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Nicholas Pryor is 85. Actor Alan Alda is 84. Actress Susan Howard is 78. Actress Marthe (cq) Keller is 75. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., is 73. Actress-singer Barbi Benton is 70. Evangelical pastor Rick Warren is 66. Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy (sahr-koh-ZEE') is 65. Actress Harley Jane Kozak is 63. Movie director Frank Darabont is 61. Rock musician Dave Sharp is 61. Rock singer Sam Phillips is 58. Rock musician Dan Spitz is 57. Country musician Greg Cook (Ricochet) is 55. Gospel singer Marvin Sapp is 53. Singer Sarah McLachlan is 52. Rapper Rakim is 52. DJ Muggs (Cypress Hill) is 52. Actress Kathryn Morris is 51. Humorist Mo Rocca is 51. Rock/soul musician Jeremy Ruzumna (Fitz and the Tantrums) is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Anthony Hamilton is 49. Singer Monifah is 48. Actress Gillian Vigman is 48. Rock musician Brandon Bush is 47. Retired MLB All-Star Jermaine Dye is 46. Actress Terri Conn is 45. Singer Joey Fatone Jr. ('N Sync) is 43. Rapper Rick Ross is 43. Actress Rosamund Pike is 41. Actress Angelique Cabral is 41. Singer Nick Carter (Backstreet Boys) is 40. Actor Vinny Chhibber is 40. Actor Elijah Wood is 39. Rapper J. Cole is 35. Actress Alexandra Krosney is 32. Actor Yuri Sardarov is 32. Actress Ariel Winter is 22.

Thought for Today: "It is difficult to say what is impossible, for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow." — Robert H. Goddard, American rocket engineer (1882-1945).

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