

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 1 of 50

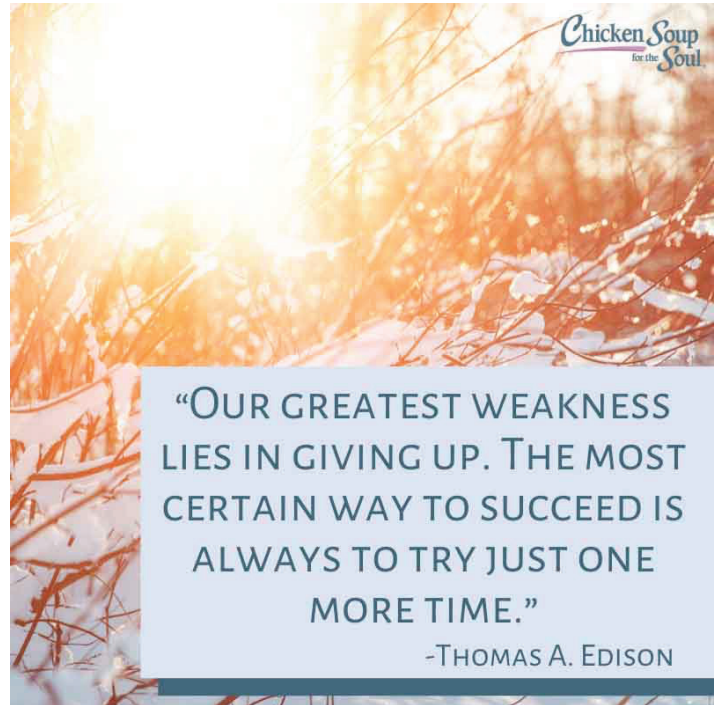
- [1- NEC-DAK Clash Game](#)
- [1- Notice of Vacancy](#)
- [2- Basin Electric helps Groton rescue squad purchase power cot](#)
- [4- GHS Debaters take second in Watertown Sweepstakes](#)
- [5- Upcoming Events](#)
- [6- Weather Pages](#)
- [9- Daily Devotional](#)
- [10- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [11- News from the Associated Press](#)

## Saturday, Feb. 8

Chamberlain will be coming to Groton for a boys' basketball game. The C game will begin at 1:30 with the junior varsity around 2:45 p.m. and the varsity around 4:15 p.m. This is a make-up game for the game lost from the Pentagon.

## Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020

**Boys NEC-DAK12 Clash at Madison**  
**6:30 p.m.: Groton Area vs. SF Christian**



## NOTICE OF VACANCY MUNICIPALITY OF GROTON

The following offices will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office of the elected officer.

- Councilperson Ward 1 – 2 year term
- Councilperson Ward 1 – 1 year term
- Councilperson Ward 2 – 2 year term
- Councilperson Ward 3 – 2 year term

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on January 31st, 2020, and petitions may be filed at City Hall located at 209 N Main, Groton, SD between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. central standard time not later than the 28th day of February, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

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

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

© 2019 Groton Daily Independent

## Basin Electric helps Groton rescue squad purchase power cot



Pictured left to right are Kelly Schafer, (Basin Electric Distributed Generation Safety Coordinator), Tom Tietz (Fire Chief), Andy Buntrock (Basin Electric Director of Strategic Planning and Communications), Char Hager (Northern Electric Manager), Ben Peterson (Northern Electric), Joe Nelson (Basin Electric Groton Station Supervisor), Rick Pigors, (Groton Area Fire Protection & Rescue board vice chairman), Patti Woods (Groton Rescue Training Officer), Wendy Monson (EMT), Charity Hinman (EMT), John Wheeting (Groton Area Fire Protection & Rescue board member), and Nancy Larsen (EMT). (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, donated \$15,554.86 to Groton Area Fire Protection and Rescue District on Monday, January 27. The check was presented at the Groton Fire Hall and covers the entire cost of a new Power Pro Cot for their ambulance. The fire/rescue district covers approximately 280 square miles and services 894 housing units and 2,050 people.

The Groton Area Fire Protection and Rescue District is not a transporting unit. Instead, they work with the Aberdeen Fire & Rescue to transport patients to an Aberdeen hospital. Since the new power cot is the

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 3 of 50

same cot used by Aberdeen crews, it will make an easy transition and ensure patients are safely made ready for transport and avoid further chance for injury.

Patti Woods, training officer for the Groton Rescue Squad, said in a video interview with GDILIVE.COM, "Volunteers are getting harder and harder to come by. Sometimes our staff is limited when we get a call. With the Power Cot, two people can lift someone into the ambulance where before, it would take four people to do it. Having a Power Pro Cot will reduce the chance of injuries, including back injuries which are a common problem due to lifting and moving patients."

This is the first Power Cot that Groton Rescue has ever received. She said that Groton Fire formulated the cot to the same as Aberdeen so when we put a patient on the cot, they can take the patient and cot and put it into their vehicle. "Before, they would have to transfer the patient off our cot to their cot before transporting to Aberdeen," she said.

"We were hesitant in putting a patient on one of our cots," Woods said. "We would wait until they (Aberdeen Fire and Rescue) would get here and put the patient on their cot. Now we can get the patient ready on our cot and when they get here, they are ready to go. It will get them more quickly to the hospital."

Woods said she heard about the grant and the cooperative training session that Basin has. "It was one of the grants I applied for and we got it," she said. "We're pretty happy."

The enhancements of having a new power cot will help to relieve patient fear and anxiety. It will have a wider base for more stability, and the stretcher will have a wider mattress for enhanced comfort. The hydraulic lift system raises and lowers the stretcher in a gentle, predictable speed, thus eliminating the jerk motion associated with manual lift cots. Also, the new ergonomic handles and wider base reduce injury risks for volunteers.

Woods had applied for the grant through Basin Electric. She was notified of the grant approval through Northern Electric. Northern Electric receives its power from Basin Electric. Both Basin Electric and Northern Electric are in the Groton Area Fire Protection & Rescue District.

Woods said the next item they would like to get is a loader for the vehicle that will actually load the cot. That feature is around \$23,000.



**Patti Woods and Wendy Monson show the stages of the power cot. Videos from the event can be seen in the video archives of [397news.com](http://397news.com). (Photos lifted by GDILIVE.COM video)**



**Pictured are Coach Kristen Gonsoir, and team members KaSandra Pappas, Sage Mortenson and Samantha Pappas.** (Courtesy Photo)

## **GHS Debaters take second in Watertown Sweepstakes**

The GHS Debate team placed second in sweepstakes at the Watertown Fiesta Debate Contest January 24-25, 2020. The team was represented by Samantha Pappas and KaSandra Pappas in Varsity Public Forum, Sage Mortenson in Original Oratory, Samantha Pappas in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking, and K Pappas in Informative. While the team did not have any one break to a final round, the team had a strong showing in the preliminary rounds. The next contest for the GHS Debate team is February 14-15 at Harrisburg HS. After that the team will move into post season events with the National Qualifying Tournament followed by the SDHSAA State Contest.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 5 of 50

## Upcoming Events

### 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

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 6 of 50

Today

Tonight

Friday

Friday  
Night

Saturday



Patchy Wintry  
Mix and Areas  
Freezing Fog

High: 31 °F



Chance Snow  
and Patchy  
Fog

Low: 20 °F



Partly Sunny

High: 30 °F



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 23 °F



Partly Sunny

High: 41 °F

## Dense Fog and Freezing Drizzle This Morning, then Light Snow Possible This Afternoon and Tonight

This Morning into Early Afternoon

This Afternoon into Tonight



**Slick Roads!**  
If travelling, allow extra  
time to reach your  
destination.

**FOG**

**& Freezing  
Drizzle**

Light  
Snow

Light snow will spread into central South Dakota  
around mid day, then slowly move east through the  
afternoon and evening hours

Snowfall amounts: <1"

Highs Today in the Upper 20s to Mid 30s - Warmest along and west of Missouri River

Dense fog and patchy freezing will continue this morning, leading to slick roads across the area. The fog and freezing drizzle will end from west to east this afternoon, as light snow moves over the area. Snowfall accumulation is expected to be less than an inch by Friday morning.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 7 of 50

## Today in Weather History

January 30, 2001: Widespread freezing rain, accumulating from 1/8 to 1/2 inch, changed over to snow late in the evening of the 29th. The snow accumulated from 6 to 12 inches over much of central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. The combination of ice and snow caused significant travel problems, school and flight cancellations and delays, business closings, and numerous vehicle accidents. Several highways were closed along with large portions of Interstates 29 and 90. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Murdo, 14 SSW Hayes, and 8 E of Eden, 7 inches at Castlewood and 5 NE of Peever, 8 inches at Miller, Gann Valley, Iona, Watertown, Ortonville, and 2 NW Stephan. Nine inches of snowfall accumulated 18 S of Harrold with 10 inches at Tulare and Kennebec, 11 inches at Clark, Clear Lake, and Wheaton, 12 inches at Carpenter, Willow Lake, Milbank, and Browns Valley, and 13 inches at Wilmot.

January 30, 2011: Heavy snow of 6 to 9 inches fell across part of northeast South Dakota from the afternoon of the 30th to the afternoon of the 31st. Travel was disrupted especially along Interstate-90. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Webster, Summit, and Clear Lake; 7 inches at Watertown and Milbank; 8 inches at Wilmot and Sisseton and 9 inches at Bryant, Waubay, and Andover.

1607: The Bristol Channel floods in England, resulted in the drowning of a large number of people and the destruction of a large amount of farmland and livestock. Recent research has suggested that the cause may have been a tsunami. Cardiff was one of the most badly affected towns, with the foundations of St. Mary's Church destroyed.

1954: A tornado touched down near White Point Beach, Nova Scotia. A great deal of hail and lightning was reported along the coast near Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

1966: The Blizzard of 1966 temporarily isolated Buffalo, New York and paralyzed the region. Train service was disrupted. Numerous highways, the New York State Thruway from Albany to the Pennsylvania state line, and the Buffalo Airport as well as other airports throughout western and central New York were closed. Hardest hit was the Syracuse-Oswego area. 100 inches of snow was reported at Oswego, NY. Some schools in Orleans County were closed for the entire week following the blizzard. Economic loss from the storm was estimated at \$35 million dollars. Winds gusting to 60 mph and temperatures in the teens along with heavy and blowing snow created severe blizzard conditions.

2002: What had been one of the driest Januarys on record in Iowa was broken up by a winter storm that produced snowfall across the state from January 30-31. The snow was heaviest across southern and southeastern Iowa where storm total accumulations ranged between 11 and 13 inches along and south of a line from Chariton through Ottumwa to Wapello and Burlington. The highest reported totals were 13.2 inches at Leon and 13.0 inches at Bloomfield and Fairfield.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 8 of 50

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 28 °F at 12:52 PM**

**Low Temp: 26 °F at 5:00 AM**

**Wind: 14 mph at 11:31 PM**

**Precip:**

**Record High: 55° in 1931**

**Record Low: -37° in 2019**

**Average High: 24°F**

**Average Low: 2°F**

**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.44**

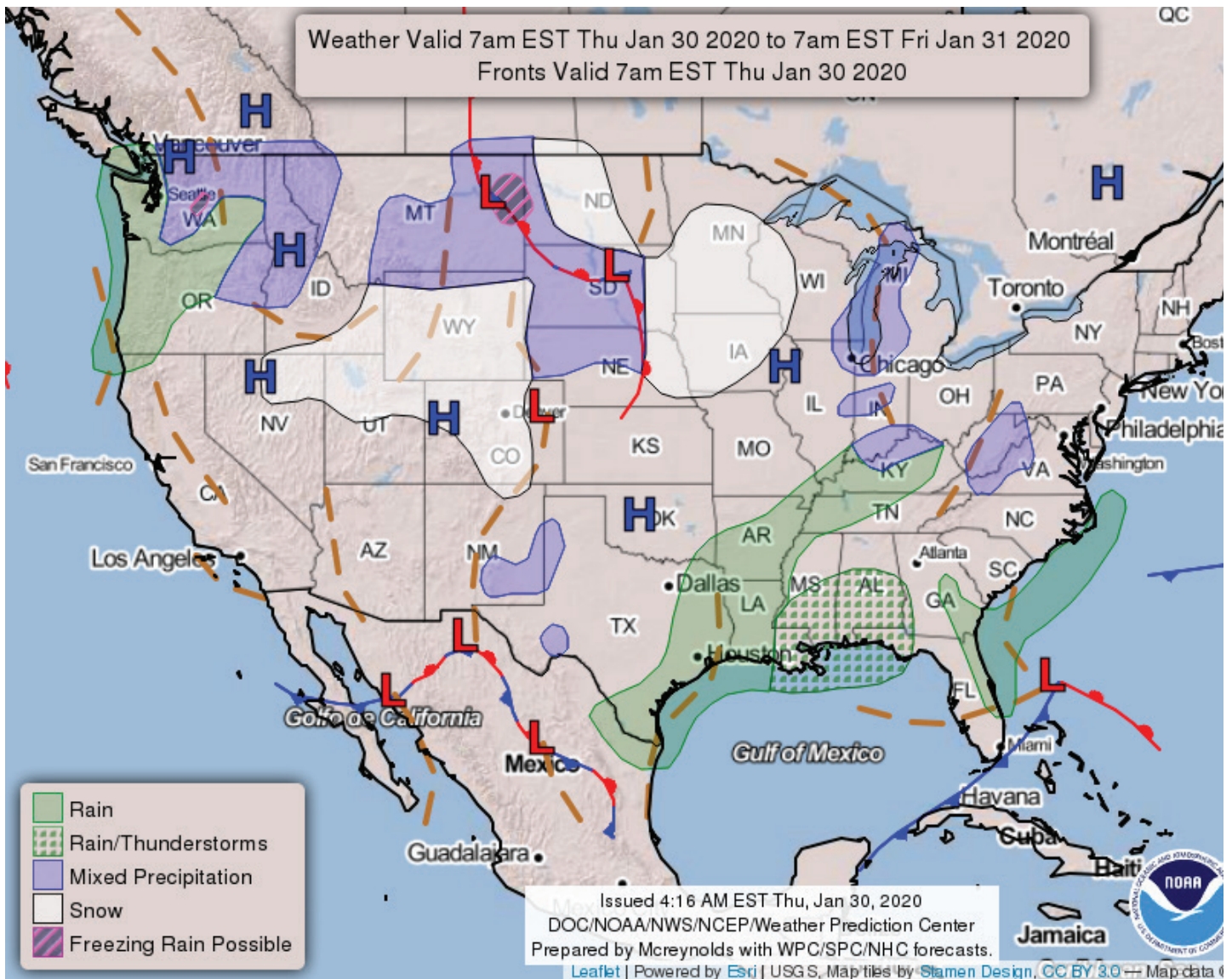
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.35**

**Average Precip to date: 0.44**

**Precip Year to Date: 0.35**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:37 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:56 a.m.**





# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 9 of 50



## WHERE TO FIND HAPPINESS

A professor was known to ask his students questions to make them think. On one occasion he stood before the class and wrote on the chalkboard, "Who's more content – the man with six million dollars or the man with six children? Now think!" he challenged them.

After a few moments, one of the students raised his hand and answered, "The man with the six children."

" Oh. Why?" asked the professor.

" Well, the man with the six million dollars would always want more!" came the reply.

True contentment is always independent of "things" – whether possessions or pleasures. It only comes from an inner attitude toward life. That is why Paul said, "True religion, with contentment, is great wealth."

This does not imply that being a Christian means living in poverty or wanting to be poor. But it does mean that the power of "things" will never bring happiness and that the Christian must always focus on "things" that are eternal.

In the final analysis, we can only take two "things" to Heaven: Ourselves and what we have done with our lives.

So, we must live our lives with one goal that dominates our heads, hearts, and hands: to present ourselves to God without shame! As Paul said, "I beg you...to be living sacrifices!"

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize that life does not consist in amassing an abundance of "things." Give us Your insight and wisdom to live lives that honor You! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 1 Timothy 6:6 Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 10 of 50

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Wednesday:

Dakota Cash

07-10-13-23-24

(seven, ten, thirteen, twenty-three, twenty-four)

Estimated jackpot: \$38,000

Lotto America

09-11-12-25-43, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 5

(nine, eleven, twelve, twenty-five, forty-three; Star Ball: eight; ASB: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$7.61 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$155 million

Powerball

09-12-15-31-60, Powerball: 2, Power Play: 2

(nine, twelve, fifteen, thirty-one, sixty; Powerball: two; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$394 million

### AG: Rapid City police officer justified in fatal shooting

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City police officer was justified in fatally shooting a gunman who opened fire on law officers after the suspect killed a man in an apartment complex last month, South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravensborg said Wednesday.

Ravensborg and the state Division of Criminal Investigation released a summary of the investigation into the Dec. 29 shooting of 29-year-old Patrick Alden of Rapid City. Officers were called to the apartment building on a report of shots fired. Authorities say Alden opened fire on the officers, striking one of their vehicles, and when officers climbed a stairwell to reach the second floor they encountered Alden, armed with a rifle. Rapid City police Officer Garrett Mastin, a three-year veteran of the department, shot and killed Alden.

In a statement, Ravensborg said the officer was justified in firing his weapon and using lethal force.

Police identified the victim killed by Alden as 64-year-old David Iron Horse of Rapid City. Both Alden and Iron Horse lived in the apartment building. Thomas Trout, an 81-year-old man who was evacuated from the building during the gunfire, also died after suffering an apparent medical issue.

### Frederick, No. 21 South Dakota women give coach 100th win

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Taylor Frederick scored a season-high 21 points and No. 21 South Dakota made Dawn Plitzuweit's 100th win with the Coyotes an easy one, racing past Omaha 73-42 on Wednesday night.

Ciara Duffy added 14 points and Hannah Sjerven 10 for South Dakota (20-2, 9-0 Summit League), which has won nine straight since losing to now-No. 1 South Carolina 73-60 in late December.

Madison McKeever scored eight points to reach 1,000 for her career. Plitzuweit, in her fourth season at South Dakota, reached 100 wins in 124 games.

Despite going 2 of 18 from 3-point range, the Coyotes shot 43% and held the Mavericks to 29%, forcing 25 turnovers that turned into 22 points.

Mariah Murdie had 20 points for Omaha (6-15, 1-7).

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

## South Dakota House OKs ban on kids' gender-change treatment

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota House on Wednesday passed a bill that would ban gender-change treatment for children under 16, including surgeries, puberty-blockers and hormone therapy.

The measure makes it possible to charge doctors who do so with a misdemeanor that could carry up to a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. The bill passed the Republican-controlled House 46-23, with a handful of Republican defections. It now moves to the Senate.

GOP Gov. Kristi Noem has said she has concerns about the bill but hasn't said whether she would veto it.

Republican legislators, with backing from conservative advocacy groups, are pushing similar bills in at least six states, including Florida, Missouri, Colorado, Illinois and New Hampshire.

Lawmakers argued about the medical, legal, and financial ramifications of the law for nearly 90 minutes before voting.

Democrats and LGBTQ advocates say the treatments may be lifesaving and medically necessary because they can improve the mental health of transgender children. They warn that blocking treatment could raise the risk of suicides.

The South Dakota State Medical Association also opposes the bill, calling it interference in the doctor-patient relationship.

Proponents of the bill in South Dakota argue that the medical treatments are ideologically motivated and harm children in the long run. Rep. Fred Deutsch, the Watertown Republican who introduced the bill, called it a "pause button" for children who want to change their gender.

"The argument that carried the day, rightfully, is that we're protecting children in South Dakota," he said.

House Minority Leader Jamie Smith, a Sioux Falls Democrat, said that doctors in South Dakota have told him that this is not a problem in the state.

"They were appalled that they are going to be told by us how to do their job," Smith said.

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

Deutsch said there are two other healthcare providers in the state that offer treatment to children with gender dysphoria.

Smith said Republicans were "cherry-picking" medical studies, alternately pointing to medical studies that detail the long-term effects of puberty blockers and hormone therapy, while also casting doubt on doctors and medical associations that recommend gender-change treatments for children.

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

Several Republicans broke with their party to oppose the bill.

Rep. Jess Olson, a Rapid City Republican, said that in running an organization mentoring children she has helped in the care of a transgender child. She said the proposed law would be government overreach.

"We need to be careful when we interfere with parental rights," Olson said.

The American Civil Liberties Union has promised to mount a legal challenge to the gender-change treatment ban if it becomes law.

But House Majority Leader Lee Qualm, a Platte Republican, told legislators that the Liberty Counsel, a conservative legal organization with ties to Liberty University President Jerry Falwell Jr., has offered to defend the state if it's sued.

Lawmakers also debated the financial impact of the bill. Several business groups oppose it, saying that it may deter corporations from doing business in the state.

Marketing the state to prospective businesses is a central goal of the governor this year.

Republicans pointed to the example of North Carolina's so-called bathroom bill that was passed in 2016

to make the argument that the bill would not significantly impact the state. They said they heard from the sponsor of the North Carolina bill that it did not significantly impact tax revenues.

Democrats pointed out that North Carolina repealed much of the law a year after passing it.

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

In 2016, South Dakota legislators approved a so-called bathroom bill that would have required transgender children to use the bathrooms that corresponded to their sex at birth, but former Gov. Dennis Daugaard, a Republican, vetoed it.

A pair of bills related to transgender youth have also been introduced in the South Dakota Senate this year. One would allow parents to withdraw their children from health care, including counseling services, that promote or confirm a child's gender different to their birth gender. The other bill would require school counselors to tell parents if their child has feelings of gender dysphoria.

Libby Skarin, policy director for the American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota, said in a statement, "It's time to stop these attacks on transgender youth and focus on issues that really matter to the people of South Dakota."

## **Pentagon identifies 2 Air Force airmen killed in Afghanistan**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon on Wednesday released the names of two Air Force officers killed in the crash of their Bombardier E-11A electronic surveillance plane in Afghanistan.

They were identified as Lt. Col. Paul K. Voss, 46, of Yigo, Guam, and Capt. Ryan S. Phaneuf, 30, of Hudson, New Hampshire. Voss was assigned to Air Combat Command headquarters at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia. Phaneuf was assigned to the 37th Bomb Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

The cause of Monday's crash is under investigation, but officials have said there is no indication the plane was downed by hostile action.

"I'm pretty confident there was no enemy action involved. Aircraft mishaps happen," Gen. Frank McKenzie, commander of U.S. Central Command, told reporters Wednesday at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia.

The remains of the two airmen were recovered from the crash site in Ghazni province by American forces on Tuesday.

McKenzie said that as far as he knows, the U.S. troops did not meet any resistance going to the site.

"The main resistance was from the weather, which was really significant back there," he said, adding that "appropriate precautions" were taken in moving the recovery team to the site "because the last thing you want to do is have another mishap or have other people lose their lives in attempt to get up there."

## **Presidential task force on missing Natives charts path**

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — A presidential task force charged with coming up with ways to address cases of missing and slain Native Americans met for the first time Wednesday.

The task force made up of seven federal officials will meet over two years and work with tribes to tailor responses to what has become an epidemic in Indian Country. No single federal database tracks the number of Native Americans or Alaska Natives who are missing or have been killed.

The Justice Department has said the population suffers disproportionately from violence.

The task force announced Wednesday that it will hold the first in a series of listening sessions with tribes on Feb. 12 during a gathering of the National Congress of American Indians in Washington.

It also announced the selection of executive director Marcia Good, a former assistant U.S. attorney in Montana who prosecuted cases out of Indian Country.

The task force will report on its work in November and produce a final report at the end of its second year.

Lawmakers to consider harsher penalties for stalking

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Legislators in South Dakota are considering harsher penalties for stalking if a per-

son has been convicted of similar charges in another state.

Currently, out-of-state stalking convictions cannot be considered in court, unlike assault or drunken driving convictions that occur elsewhere.

The first stalking conviction is a misdemeanor and automatically triggers a restraining order.

"If the law says that if you have one prior stalking conviction and you get convicted of another one and it enhances, certainly makes sense that if you've done that across state lines it should be considered, we don't have that in the statutes now," longtime attorney Tim Rensch tells KOTA-TV.

The bill is to be considered by the House Judiciary Committee this session. A hearing date has not been set.

## Wary of irking China, Trump offers rosy take on virus threat

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, AAMER MADHANI and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump had plenty to talk about during his latest big campaign rally, regaling a friendly crowd in New Jersey with his thoughts about impeachment, the economy, the border wall, local politics and much more.

But the president was conspicuously quiet about one big issue that has much of the globe on pins and needles: the spread of a deadly new type of coronavirus.

A self-described germaphobe, Trump has had little to say in public about the new virus that so far has killed more than 170 people in China, sickened thousands more there and led to a handful of confirmed cases in the U.S.

And he speaks in broad terms when he does talk about it.

"We're very much involved with them, right now, on the virus that's going around," Trump said of China before signing a trade deal at the White House on Wednesday. He said he had discussed the situation with Chinese President Xi Jinping and added, "We're working very closely with China."

Aides and confidants say Trump's careful approach is part of a political strategy crafted to avoid upsetting the stock market or angering China by calling too much attention to the virus or blaming Beijing for not managing the situation better, according to a White House official and a Republican close to the White House. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss private conversations.

Later Wednesday, Trump tweeted out photos from a briefing on the virus he attended with administration officials in the Situation Room, writing that "we have the best experts anywhere in the world and they are on top of it 24/7!"

In keeping with the low-profile approach, the White House announced by email Wednesday night that the meeting included members of a task force that will lead the U.S. response to the new virus. The 12-person team is chaired by Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar and coordinated through the National Security Council.

The president's comments contrast sharply with the fierce criticism he lobbed at his predecessor, President Barack Obama, during the 2014-15 Ebola crisis, which left more than 11,000 dead in three West African nations.

At the time, Trump ripped into Obama as a "dope" and "incompetent" and called for a travel ban on visitors from Ebola-infected countries. Trump also advocated preventing infected American health care workers from coming home for treatment.

Obama faced some criticism from public health officials for being slow to address the Ebola crisis initially, but also received plaudits for eventually attacking it with vigor. He nudged Congress to make a \$5.4 billion emergency appropriation to aid the fight and sent 3,000 U.S. troops to West Africa to help with the international response.

Lawrence Gostin, a professor of global health law at Georgetown University, said he's taken a measure of comfort in the fact that Trump, so far, hasn't overreacted and has resisted "fanning the flames" as he did with his rhetoric during the Ebola crisis. That leaves room, Gostin said, for public health professionals

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 15 of 50

to take the lead.

"As long as that continues and as long as there isn't political interference or mass quarantines in the U.S. or outright travel bans, I will feel comfortable with how the White House is handling it," Gostin said. He added that he'd like to see Trump ask Congress for a \$1 billion emergency appropriation to help agencies battling to contain the virus.

Trump is well aware the virus outbreak in China could create a wild card for the U.S. economy during an election year. And he has long prioritized the U.S. economic relationship with China, especially during trade negotiations, and similarly largely held his tongue during widespread protests in Hong Kong. He also takes enormous pride in the personal relationship he's developed with Xi and has commended him for demonstrating "transparency" as he deals with the crisis.

Trump said "we have it totally under control" when he was asked about the new type of coronavirus while in Switzerland last week to attend an economic conference. And in a separate Twitter posting, he offered reassurance but scant detail for his confidence.

"China has been working very hard to contain the Coronavirus," Trump tweeted. "The United States greatly appreciates their efforts and transparency. It will all work out well."

But some public health experts say Trump's rosy assessments of the situation don't match the ground truth.

Gostin pointed to Chinese government bureaucratic delays that led to tens of thousands of people traveling outside of Wuhan province, increasing the likelihood that the virus will travel far beyond China.

"It's not accurate at all," Gostin said of Trump's assessment of China's handling of the outbreak. "China manifestly does not have this under control."

The money government disease detectives are tapping to fight the latest outbreak was also a congressional idea.

The Department of Health and Human Services has accessed a \$105 million fund lawmakers created to counter emerging threats from infectious diseases. That helps scientists to immediately deploy to help contain the outbreak, work on devising treatments for the virus, and investigate potential vaccines.

Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., an original sponsor of the idea, said the rapid response fund has proven its worth twice since it was set up in 2017. It was also tapped to help confront the most recent Ebola virus outbreak in Africa.

Trump's Democratic presidential rivals have zeroed in on the president's efforts to reduce financing for public health organizations.

Former Vice President Joe Biden and others have criticized Trump for eliminating a senior director position for global health security and biothreats at the National Security Council earlier in his term. Trump has also repeatedly sought budget cuts to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes for Health.

Congress resisted that, and the 2020 budget includes \$8 billion for the CDC, \$1.4 billion more than Trump's budget request. It also includes \$41.7 billion for the NIH, \$7.5 billion more than Trump's budget request.

Biden wrote in an opinion article for USA Today this week that the "possibility of a pandemic is a challenge Donald Trump is unqualified to handle as president." Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, another Democratic contender for the 2020 nomination, tweeted that after the Ebola outbreak, Congress "invested to prevent pandemics like coronavirus. Donald Trump tried to cut that funding."

---

Associated Press writers Josh Boak, Luran Neergaard and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar contributed to this report.

## Bloomberg unveils Super Bowl ad focused on gun violence

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg will use his Super Bowl ad to highlight his efforts to combat gun violence as he blankets the airwaves against President Donald Trump.

Trump and Bloomberg will be airing dueling ads during Sunday's NFL championship game, with both campaigns spending an estimated \$10 million on 60 seconds of airtime. But instead of an attack ad — as some had reported — Bloomberg's spot will instead feature a grieving mother who lost her son to gun violence.

The focus underscores the former New York City mayor's efforts to contrast himself with Trump as he seeks to build a national profile with a highly unconventional ad-driven campaign that is looking to get under the president's skin, including during the nation's most-watched television event.

The broadcast comes just one day before Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses — though neither candidate is really competing. Trump has an ironclad hold on the Republican nomination, while Bloomberg is skipping the four early voting states to focus instead on "Super Tuesday" contests on March 3.

Bloomberg's ad, which will air following the halftime show, features the story of Calandrian Simpson Kemp, a Texas mother whose 20-year-old son was fatally shot in 2013. George Kemp Jr. was a college football player who dreamed of one day playing in the NFL.

"Lives are being lost every day. It is a national crisis," the grieving mother says in the ad, which also highlights Bloomberg's record on the issue.

"When I heard Mike was stepping into the ring, I thought, 'Now we have a dog in the fight,'" she says. "Mike's fighting for every child. Because you have a right to live. No one has a right to take your hopes and dreams."

Bloomberg is a longtime backer of what he calls "common sense" gun legislation and has spent hundreds of millions of dollars since his time as New York City mayor to combat gun violence, including founding Mayors Against Illegal Guns, which eventually merged with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

In 2013, he founded Everytown for Gun Safety, which has worked to pass gun control legislation, and in 2018, he spent \$110 million to elect candidates who support gun safety in the midterm elections.

Simpson Kemp told The Associated Press that she first met Bloomberg in 2015 and was drawn to him because he was proposing solutions.

"When you have lost a child — when you have actually opened the earth and put your child in a hole and closed it up — you don't have time to wait and play," she said Wednesday. "This is urgent. And I knew Mike Bloomberg had a plan and had a plan that we can get behind."

She will be attending the game Sunday on a ticket Bloomberg gave her. "When I walk into that stadium and sit in that seat," she said, she'll be able to "tell my son that he made it. Indirectly, he has made it."

Trump's campaign, meanwhile, intends to preview its own Super Bowl ad to supporters by text message later this week. Last year, his campaign aired a swaggering ad during the final game of the World Series that labeled Trump "no Mr. Nice Guy" and highlighted the raid in Syria that killed Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

While an ad featuring a tearful mother might seem out of place alongside spots advertising beer and sedans, Bloomberg campaign spokeswoman Julie Wood said the game is a rare occasion when so many Americans come together to watch something "and actually watch the ads and talk about the ads."

"It's not about selling corn chips and beer. It is a serious ad about an issue that I think the country does care about and should care about," Bloomberg said in an appearance on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" this week.

Bloomberg's decision to buy the Super Bowl time is just the latest in his tit-for-tat with Trump, whose campaign had been in talks with Fox, the network broadcasting the game, for months about an ad.

The candidates, who have been trading barbs since Bloomberg's late decision to enter the race, both have near-limitless money to spend. Trump's campaign has set fundraising records, with \$46 million raised in the last quarter of 2019 alone. And Bloomberg, a billionaire who is self-funding his race, had already spent over \$225 million on television and digital advertisements as of mid-January, according to the track-



ing firm Advertising Analytics.

During his late-night interview, Fallon remarked that Bloomberg seemed to be getting under Trump's skin with his nonstop television presence.

"Well, I sure hope so," Bloomberg responded. "I'm trying."

Follow Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

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

## China counts 170 virus deaths, new countries find infections

By **KEN MORITSUGU** Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China counted 170 deaths from a new virus Thursday and more countries reported infections, including some spread locally, as foreign evacuees from China's worst-hit region returned home to medical observation and even isolation.

India and the Philippines reported their first cases, in a traveler and a student who had both been in Wuhan, the central Chinese city where the new type of coronavirus first surfaced in December. South Korea confirmed a case that was locally spread, in a man who had contact with a patient diagnosed earlier.

Locally spread cases outside China have been a worrying concern among global health officials, as potential signs of the virus spreading more easily and the difficulty of containing it. The World Health Organization is reconvening experts on Thursday to assess whether the outbreak should be declared a global emergency.

The new virus has now infected more people in China than were sickened there during the 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS, another type of coronavirus.

Thursday's figures for mainland China cover the previous 24 hours and represent an increase of 38 deaths and 1,737 cases for a total of 7,711. Of the new deaths, 37 were in Hubei province, of which Wuhan is the capital, and one was in the southwestern province of Sichuan.

Three of Japan's confirmed cases were among a group of evacuees who returned on a government-chartered flight from Wuhan on Wednesday. Japan's foreign ministry said a second flight carrying 210 Japanese evacuees landed Thursday at Tokyo's Haneda airport. Reports said nine of those aboard the flight showed signs of cough and fever.

India's health ministry said a student in Kerala state who had been studying in Wuhan was confirmed to have the virus after returning home during the Lunar New Year break. Philippine health officials say a woman who traveled to the country from Wuhan via Hong Kong had tested positive.

A flight arranged between the European Union and China departed Portugal en route to China to bring back 350 Europeans from the affected area. The U.S. said additional flights were being planned for around Monday, after it evacuated 195 Americans from Wuhan on Wednesday. They are being tested and monitored at a Southern California military base.

New Zealand, Australia, India, Singapore and other countries are also trying to get out their citizens. Taiwan, the self-governing republic China considers its own territory, has also asked to be able to repatriate its passport holders from Wuhan, but it and the United Kingdom said they were awaiting approval from Beijing.

Israel's El Al, Spain's Iberia and Korean Air joined the growing list of airlines suspending or reducing service to China.

In South Korea, residents in two cities where quarantine facilities are being prepared threw eggs and water bottles at government officials to protest plans to isolate in their neighborhoods 700 South Koreans the government plans to evacuate from China.

Amid reports of shortages in food and daily necessities in hot-spot areas, Chinese authorities are "stepping up efforts to ensure continuous supply and stable prices," the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

It cited Ministry of Commerce data showing current reserves in Wuhan can ensure a secure supply

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 18 of 50

of rice and cooking oil for more than 15 days, pork and eggs for more than 10 days and vegetables for about five days.

China's highly developed online shopping and home delivery businesses were important in ensuring those confined to home by choice or by order could get food and other essentials.

"I'd just like to ask that folks don't order anything other than the daily necessities," Hou Yanbo, deputy director of market supervision from the National Post Administration, told reporters at a daily briefing.

China extended its Lunar New Year holiday to Sunday to try to contain the virus, but the wave of returning travelers could potentially cause the virus to spread further.

Transport ministry spokesman Wu Chungeng outlined a series of rigorous temperature checks and other "severe measures" to detect possibly infectious passengers. Transport restrictions such as those isolating Wuhan and suspending inter-provincial bus services would remain in place, Wu said.

"It's definitely very challenging, but we're confident we can exert effective control," Wu told reporters at the briefing.

School openings in Hong Kong, Beijing and other regions have been extended by at least two weeks.

The WHO emergencies chief, Michael Ryan, spoke in Geneva after returning from Beijing. He said China was taking "extraordinary measures in the face of an extraordinary challenge" posed by the outbreak.

To date, about 99% of the cases are in China. Ryan estimated the death rate of the new virus at 2%, but said the figure was very preliminary. With fluctuating numbers of cases and deaths, scientists are only able to produce a rough estimate of the fatality rate and it's likely many milder cases of the virus are being missed.

In comparison, the SARS virus killed about 10% of people who caught it. The new virus is from the coronavirus family, which includes those that can cause the common cold as well as more serious illnesses such as SARS and MERS.

Scientists say there are many questions to be answered about the new virus, including just how easily it spreads and how severe it is.

Chinese authorities have demanded anyone who traveled from or through Wuhan report to health authorities and self-quarantine themselves for 14 days, the maximum incubation period during which patients can be infectious even if they don't show symptoms.

China has been largely praised for a swift and effective response to the outbreak, although questions have been raised about the police suppression of what were early on considered mere rumors — a reflection of the one-party Communist state's determination to maintain a monopoly on information in spite of smart phones and social media.

That stands in stark contrast to the initial response to SARS, when medical reports were hidden as state secrets. The delayed response was blamed for allowing the disease to spread worldwide, killing around 800 people.

This time, in addition to working with WHO, China's health minister Ma Xiaowei has been in touch with foreign colleagues, including U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar.

---

Associated Press writers Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo and Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

## **Brexit finally arrives Friday: A momentous yet quiet moment**

**By RAF CASERT and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press**

BRUSSELS (AP) — Friday will mark a truly historic moment, but almost nothing will happen.

A few Union Jack flags will be lowered from European Union buildings in Brussels, more will be waved in jubilation by Brexiteers in London at the moment of Britain's departure — at 11 p.m. in the U.K., midnight in much of the EU (2300 GMT).

But for most of the half a billion people in Britain and the bloc, it will be a normal Friday night.

Britain and the bloc fought tooth and nail for the best part of four years — with insults flying across

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 19 of 50

the English Channel — over the terms of their divorce. Now, on the eve of one of the most significant events in European Union history, the political eruptions have ceased and an uneasy quiet reigns: the calm before the next storm.

Both sides are spent and drained from the Brexit fight, and neither has much appetite for an extravaganza to mark the occasion.

The EU would prefer the night to pass without anyone noticing. After all, it is losing one of its biggest members, a diplomatic, military and economic power on a par with Germany and France. The U.K. is the first nation ever to turn its back on the EU in the 62-year history of this experiment in political union.

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen spoke this week of “the agony of parting.”

“We will always love you and we will never be far,” she said at the last session of the European Parliament with British participation.

Even British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, an energetic champion of Brexit, promised a “dignified exit” that is “mindful of everybody’s feelings.”

Arch-Brexiteer Nigel Farage and his band of devotees will gather for patriotic songs and speeches in London’s Parliament Square. But Johnson is staying away from triumphalism and won’t be gloating, at least in public. Union Jacks will flutter in the streets around Parliament and buildings will be lit up in red, white and blue. But there won’t be fireworks.

Britain’s prime minister and his Conservative Party may have won election last month on a promise to “Get Brexit Done,” but he knows his country is almost as divided today as it was in June 2016, when voters decided to walk away from the bloc after more than four decades. The 52%-48% margin of victory for the “leave” side was so tight that it tore at the fabric of the nation, divided parties and families, split big cities from small towns and pitted England against Scotland.

In the years since, it has pitted a divided Britain against the EU’s united 27 remaining nations.

British politicians struggled to agree on what they wanted from Brexit and what it looked like — as was made clear by Britain’s previous prime minister, Theresa May, who coined and endlessly repeated the empty phrase “Brexit means Brexit.”

Britain’s Parliament and government were riven by deep divisions over Brexit, pitting “remainers” against “leavers,” and setting those who wanted a sharp break with Europe against factions favoring a softer departure, or even no Brexit at all.

The EU’s 27 other nations, in contrast, knew what they wanted and stuck together, led by the formidable negotiator Michel Barnier. While Britain cycled through several Brexit ministers and negotiators, Barnier remained — and the EU is keeping the silver-haired diplomat on to lead the talks on its future trade and security deals with Britain.

Barnier’s steadfastness in preserving the EU’s single market and core principles meant that when the two sides finally struck a deal on Britain’s departure terms in late 2018, it contained little of the cherry-picking of membership perks that Britain had sought. And it included a major concession by the U.K. to maintain an open border between the EU’s Republic of Ireland and the U.K.’s Northern Ireland.

Yet the EU divorce agreement agreed upon by May immediately ran into trouble in Britain’s Parliament, where lawmakers rejected it three times. Pro-Brexit legislators thought the terms too cozy with the bloc; pro-EU lawmakers said they were too harsh.

As Britain bickered, the actual Brexit date kept getting pushed back: March 29, 2019 became Oct. 31. May fell and as replaced by Johnson, who vowed that Britain would leave the bloc at Halloween “do or die.” Again, lawmakers blocked him.

Businesses on both sides of the channel grew increasingly frustrated as officials were unable to tell them what trading conditions they would face after Brexit. The danger grew that Britain would crash out of the bloc without a Brexit deal, leaving a chaotic landscape for firms that trade between the U.K. and the EU.

In the end, sheer exhaustion helped break the logjam. Many Britons — whether they wanted to leave the EU or remain — were so exasperated by the interminable wrangling that they voted in last month’s election for the politician who promised to get it all over with: Johnson.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 20 of 50

Armed with a big majority in Parliament, Johnson succeeded where May had failed and got Parliament to approve a rejigged EU divorce deal. Brexit was re-scheduled for Jan. 31 -- and this time, it's for real.

On Saturday the EU will be smaller — a failure for which the bloc's leaders know they are partly to blame. The United Kingdom will no longer be part of EU summits and ministerial meetings. Its 73 EU parliamentarians have lost their jobs and cleared out their offices.

Initially, residents in the U.K. and the EU will notice few changes. Feb. 1 marks the start of a transition period until the end of the year, in which Britain will continue to follow EU rules and pay into the bloc's coffers. People and businesses can carry on as usual while the two sides negotiate a new relationship on trade, security and a host of other issues.

Johnson insists he won't allow the transition period to last more than 11 months, and says that's ample time to strike a free trade agreement. The EU says otherwise, pointing out that similar deals with Canada, Japan or South Korea took years, not months.

So yet again, the two sides appear on a collision course. Britain says it will not agree to follow an EU rule book in return for unfettered trade. The bloc insists there can be no trade deal unless Britain agrees to a "level playing field" and does not undercut EU regulations.

And the issue of fishing looms large once again. Britain insists it will take control of its fishing waters after Brexit. The EU says it will want access to British waters for European fishermen in return for a deal in other areas.

And Britain's dreaded cliff-edge economic split is still very much on the cards at the end of 2020.

Lawless reported from London.

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

## 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:

1. **A STRIKING SHIFT FROM 'PERFECT' DEALINGS WITH UKRAINE** Trump's legal team is asserting at his Senate trial that a trade of U.S. military aid for political favors — even if proven — could not be grounds for his impeachment.

2. **DEATH TOLL RISES FROM CHINA VIRUS** At least 170 are dead and more countries reported infections as foreign evacuees from hard-hit Wuhan return home to medical observation and even isolation.

3. **WHAT TRUMP HAS BEEN QUIET ABOUT** Confidants say the president's careful approach about the spread of a deadly new virus is designed to avoid upsetting the stock market or angering China.

4. **INVISIBLE WAR WOUNDS NOW IN SPOTLIGHT** Brain injuries suffered by U.S. troops after an Iranian missile attack in Iraq shines a light on a medical issue not fully understood but has affected hundreds of thousands over the past two decades.

5. **'WE ARE COMPLETELY DEVASTATED'** Vanessa Bryant thanks people for the global outpouring of support since the helicopter crash that killed her husband Kobe Bryant, one of their daughters and seven others.

6. **TERROR ATTACKS PLUMMET IN PAKISTAN** But concerns persist over Islamabad's efforts to curb terror funding and lingering militant activity that could test any future peace agreement in neighboring Afghanistan.

7. **TRUMP STEPS UP EARLY STATE EFFORT** His reelection team sees it as a test run for its organizing prowess and to boost excitement for the president's candidacy come November.

8. **UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENTS A MIXED BAG** A survey finds that most U.S. colleges made money on their financial investments last year, but their returns were tempered by a global economic slowdown.

9. **YOU'RE LIVING A LITTLE LONGER** Life expectancy in the U.S. is up for the first time in four years — about a month. The rise is due to lower death rates for cancer and drug overdoses.

10. **WHO IS BLAZING A NEW TRAIL IN THE NFL** San Francisco 49ers assistant Katie Sowers says being

the first woman and openly gay coach to work the Super Bowl feels a bit surreal.

## Buttigieg endorsed by major California, Nevada LGBTQ group

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press

Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg has won the backing of Equality California, one of the nation's largest LGBTQ membership organizations, and its Nevada partner organization, an endorsement that could give him a boost in critical Western primaries.

While Buttigieg is the only openly gay candidate in the race, his endorsement by the organizations wasn't a lock. Every candidate was asked to fill out a questionnaire, and the endorsement committee also considered supporting Elizabeth Warren or Tom Steyer, the only Californian still in the race. But Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, impressed the committee with his detailed policies for protecting LGBTQ youth in schools and ending the HIV epidemic by 2030.

"When we had the combination of an LGBTQ candidate who had the most comprehensive and boldest policy agenda, and was also viable ... it was an easy decision," said Rick Zbur, Equality California's executive director.

The organization boasts 900,000 members, making it the country's second largest membership organization for LGBTQ individuals behind the Human Rights Campaign, which does not plan to endorse in the Democratic presidential primary.

The endorsement, announced Thursday, comes less than a week before voting begins in Iowa, the leadoff caucus state. Equality California and Silver State Equality, its newly launched Nevada partnership, will focus on appealing to voters in both states. Nevada is the third state to vote, with a caucus on Feb. 22. California holds its primary on March 3, known as Super Tuesday, but millions of people who vote by mail will get their ballots next month.

Buttigieg, in an emailed statement, called the groups "unrelenting in their fight for LGBTQ+ people and our push for full equality."

"My campaign is based around a shared future of belonging for all Americans, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity," he said. "President Trump's attacks on the LGBTQ+ community, especially our trans members, have shown us that the fight for equal rights did not end with marriage equality. I will be the President to continue that fight for equality."

Every Democratic candidate had the opportunity to fill out a survey from the groups. Amy Klobuchar is the only major candidate who did not participate, said Samuel Garrett-Pate, a spokesman for the groups. Buttigieg, Steyer and Warren then participated in lengthy interviews with the endorsement committee.

All three had LGBTQ policy platforms that would be the most progressive for any president in history, Zbur said. But Buttigieg stood out for the depth of his plans on such issues as funding programs that can help stop the transmission of and deaths from HIV and teacher training and mentorship programs in schools to provide support for LGBTQ youth. Zbur said Buttigieg's criminal justice plan, which included plans to protect transgender people, stood out as well.

The group's endorsement means it will be promoting Buttigieg through slate cards highlighting its chosen candidate, a robust texting program and digital advertisements. Equality California has purchased ads on Grindr, an LGBTQ dating app, to promote things like the upcoming census and get-out-the-vote efforts, and it may run similar ads for Buttigieg.

Buttigieg also has the backing of Victory Fund, an organization that helps LGBTQ candidates win elected office.

Seeing Buttigieg make a serious run for the presidency as an openly gay man is "something that literally brings tears to the eyes of many members of our community," Zbur said. A Buttigieg presidency would "redefine what's possible in politics and will inspire millions of LGBT youth."

Mandy Lee, former president of the group's board and a member of the endorsement committee, said, "It wasn't just the fact that he was LGBTQ. It was everything that he demonstrated on our call that showed us that he was the best and most invested."

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

## The guillotine: Brexit ends election roles for expat Britons

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

SAINT-MARTIAL-SUR-ISOP, France (AP) — For many Britons living in towns and villages across Europe, the stroke of midnight Friday will mean losing the right to vote and run for office, with Brexit acting as an electoral guillotine on those privileges.

From being active participants in the communities where they have sunk roots and pay taxes, British expatriates in France, Germany and elsewhere in the European Union will suddenly find themselves on the outside, with no say.

Andrew Nixey must give up his seat on the elected council in Saint-Martial-sur-Isop, the village in west-central France where he has lived and raised cattle for 20 years.

"The fact that we can't vote is illogical," he said in an interview in the kitchen of his lovingly restored farmhouse, after a lunch of homemade bread, soup and British cheeses. "We pay taxes, why should we not vote?"

In the German village of Brunsmark, Brexit is forcing Scotsman Iain Macnab to cut short his third term as mayor that wasn't due to end until 2023. German authorities told him last year that his voting rights and, with them, his mayorship of the village of 170 people must end with Britain's EU exit.

"The guillotine is there," Macnab said in a phone interview. "I will have a glass of sparkling wine with the local council on Friday and then thank them for doing an excellent job and I will disappear into the twilight, ride off into the sunset."

Many details of Britain's separation from the EU still must be sorted out, and there won't be a lot of visible changes on Saturday, after the tortuous divorce finally becomes official.

But the loss still will be felt especially hard by Britons who left their island nation long ago to make new lives on the continent. Already disenfranchised by British electoral law, which prevents expats from voting in the United Kingdom after 15 years overseas, Brexit will for many usher in an uncertain future with no ability to vote anywhere.

The problem could be fixed by becoming citizens of where they've chosen to live — an often drawn-out process. But some expats don't meet the requirements, some have applied but are still awaiting the paperwork, and some simply don't want to become French, German or whatever.

Still others haven't gotten around to it, waking up late to the fact that they'll soon have nowhere to vote at all.

Macnab said he doesn't want to be a German citizen despite having lived in Germany for 40 years, because he may choose to move back to Scotland someday.

"I have been 70 years a Scot," he said. "I don't want to ruin the chance of going back to Britain and being covered by the National Health Service."

The right for all EU nationals to vote and stand in municipal elections where they live, even if they're not citizens of that country, was enshrined in the 1992 Maastricht Treaty that established the EU.

But rules in Europe are not uniform for non-EU citizens, which is what Britons will become after Friday night. Some countries allow non-EU citizens to vote in municipal elections. So even after Brexit, Britons should still have a voice at the local level in Denmark, Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands and in two cities in Slovakia. In Finland, they will need to have been residents for two years, while the residency requirement is five years in the Netherlands.

Britain also has been negotiating directly with other EU nations to extend the ability of British expatriates to vote and run for office after Brexit. The British government says it has deals with Spain, Portugal and Luxembourg and is continuing talks with others. It says British expats should also still be able to vote locally in Belgium, Estonia, Ireland, Lithuania, Malta and Slovenia.

But they'll no longer be able to vote or stand locally in France, which has tens of thousands of long-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 23 of 50

term British residents and many more part-time residents of vacation homes.

The French Interior Ministry says 757 Britons serve on municipal councils, more than any other expatriate group. They will keep their seats until municipal elections in March, but they'll not be able to run or vote then if they haven't gotten French citizenship.

For Briton Elaine Bastian, that's a blow. She has been proud to serve as an elected councilor since 2014 in the village of Blond, with 700 people and a fortified medieval church.

"I do feel robbed, almost, of my little crown, my hat of responsibility," she said in an interview. "It makes me angry more than anything. I really don't like other people being able to make my life choices. It was my life choice to be a councilor."

Nixey says his application for French citizenship is stuck somewhere in a Brexit-induced backlog. He is not optimistic that he'll get it in time to stand again for re-election in Saint-Martial-sur-Isop. He says that serving on the village council, dealing with the minutiae of local services like trash collection and road repairs, helped integrate him and his wife, Margaret, into the rural community where they raised two children.

He also feels it allowed him to play a bridge-building role between newly arrived Britons and their French neighbors. About one third of the 140 residents of Saint-Martial and its immediate surroundings are British, many attracted by cheap housing and land. Nixey worries that communication will suffer if he's not around to translate and help smooth out problems and misunderstandings.

"It's one more wall being built to prevent the further integration of people," he said. "It is a real shame. I know the ropes. My French is good enough."

Saint-Martial Mayor Pierre Bachellerie says excluding the British expats will be "a big loss" for his other and other villages that have been revived by arrivals of British workers and retirees.

"What really upsets me is that they repopulated our villages. We are lucky to have them," he said. "For me, it's an aberration that they can no longer vote."

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

## Trump's defense shifts to not 'impeachable' even if true

By LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a striking shift from President Donald Trump's claim of "perfect" dealings with Ukraine, his defense asserted at his Senate trial that a trade of U.S. military aid for political favors — even if proven — could not be grounds for his impeachment.

Trump's defenders relied on retired professor Alan Dershowitz, a member of their team, who told senators that every politician conflates his own interest with the public interest. "It cannot be impeachable," he declared Wednesday.

Democrats pressed hard to force the Senate to call more witnesses to testify, but Republicans appeared intently focused on bringing the impeachment trial to a vote of acquittal, possibly in a matter of days. Even new revelations from former national security adviser John Bolton were countered by the president's lawyers, who used Wednesday's unusual question-and-answer session to warn off prolonging the proceeding, insisting senators have heard enough.

Democrats argued Bolton's forthcoming book cannot be ignored. It contends he personally heard Trump say he wanted military aid withheld from Ukraine until it agreed to investigate Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden — the abuse of power charge that is the first article of impeachment.

The vote on calling witnesses is expected by Friday.

As Chief Justice John Roberts fielded queries, Texas Republican Ted Cruz asked if it mattered whether there was a quid pro quo?

Simply, no, declared Dershowitz, who said many politicians equate their reelection with the public good. "That's why it's so dangerous to try to psychoanalyze a president," he said.

Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democrat leading the House prosecutors, appeared stunned.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 24 of 50

"All quid pro quos are not the same," he retorted. Some might be acceptable, some not. "And you don't need to be a mind reader to figure out which is which. For one thing, you can ask John Bolton."

With voting on witnesses later this week, Democrats, amid the backdrop of protesters swarming the Capitol, are making a last-ditch push to sway Republicans to call Bolton and others to appear for testimony and ensure a "fair trial."

Trump faces charges from the House that he abused his power like no other president, jeopardizing Ukraine and U.S.-Ukraine relations by using the military aid as leverage while the vulnerable ally battled Russia. The second article of impeachment says Trump then obstructed the House probe in a way that threatened the nation's three-branch system of checks and balances.

Over two days, senators are grilling the House Democrats prosecuting the case and the Republican president's defense team. Dozens of questions were asked and answered Wednesday in five-minute clips, with senators under orders to sit silently without comment, submitting their questions in writing. They finished shortly past 11 p.m. and were expected to keep going Thursday.

Democratic leader Chuck Schumer asked whether the Senate could really render a fair verdict without hearing from Bolton or acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, both potential eyewitnesses to Trump's actions.

"Don't wait for the book. Don't wait 'til March 17, when it is in black and white to find out the answer to your question," Schiff told the Senate.

That publication date is now in doubt. The White House on Wednesday released a letter to Bolton's attorney objecting to "significant amounts of classified information" in the manuscript, including at the top secret level. Bolton and his attorney have insisted the book does not contain any classified information.

The White House action could delay the book's publication if Bolton, who resigned last September — Trump says he was fired — is forced to revise his draft.

GOP senators are straining to balance the new revelations with pressure for quick acquittal. They have been sternly warned by party leaders that calling Bolton as a witness could entangle the trial in lengthy legal battles and delay Trump's expected acquittal.

White House lawyers made exactly that point. Attorney Pat Philbin said in response to the Democrats' first question, "This institution will effectively be paralyzed for months." That was echoed by others.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell huddled privately with senators for a third consecutive day, acknowledging he didn't yet have the votes to brush back Democratic demands for witnesses now that revelations from Bolton have roiled the trial. But Republicans said they were making progress.

Republican ideas for dealing with Bolton and his book were fizzling almost as soon as they arose — among them, "swapping" witnesses with Democrats or issuing a subpoena for Bolton's manuscript.

Most Republican senators don't want to extend the trial by calling Bolton, and most Democrats would rather avoid dragging the Bidens further into the impeachment proceedings. The Bidens were a focus of defense arguments, though no evidence of wrongdoing has emerged.

Bolton writes in a forthcoming book that Trump told him he wanted to withhold military aid from Ukraine until it helped with investigations into Biden. That assertion, if true, would undercut a key defense argument and go to the heart of one of the two articles of impeachment against the president.

"I think Bolton probably has something to offer us," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. She met privately Wednesday with McConnell.

Trump disagreed in a tweet Wednesday in which he complained that Bolton, after he left the White House, "goes out and IMMEDIATELY writes a nasty & untrue book. All Classified National Security."

The uncertainty about witnesses arises days before crucial votes on the issue. In a Senate split 53-47 in favor of Republicans, at least four GOP senators must join all Democrats to reach the 51 votes required to call witnesses, decide whom to call or do nearly anything else in the trial.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine tried to give fresh momentum to a one-for-one witness deal, saying it's "very important that there be fairness, that each side be able to select a witness or two." But Democrats dismissed those offers.

"It's irrelevant. It's a distraction," said Schumer.



Collins, Murkowski and Utah Sen. Mitt Romney signaled an interest in calling Bolton or other witnesses, and questions and answers at times appeared directed at them.

Schiff's response to Dershowitz focused on one particular senator: He asked his audience to imagine what would have happened if then-President Barack Obama asked the Russians to dig up dirt on then-candidate Romney, the GOP's 2012 presidential nominee?

Romney, standing at the back of the chamber, smiled occasionally at mention of his name.

Far from voiding the last election, Schiff said, impeachment is protecting the next one, in 2020, from any future Trump efforts to ask foreign governments to intervene.

Republicans tried to engage the president's defense, at times raising the profile of the still anonymous government whistleblower whose complaint about Trump's July 25 call with Ukraine sparked the impeachment inquiry. Democrats kept focus on the case for Trump's conviction and removal, which would require 67 votes in the Senate and seems unlikely.

At times, there were telling exchanges. In one, the White House team could not fully respond when Collins and Murkowski asked if Trump had ever pursued Biden investigations before the former vice president announced his presidential bid in 2019.

Philbin argued that relying on foreign information in a U.S. campaign isn't necessarily a campaign law violation, drawing objections later from Democrats. Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., who said he was "flabbergasted."

In another, Dershowitz acknowledged he has changed his thinking on what the Founders intended with impeachment and keeps "refining" his views.

As the long night drew to a close, so did Schiff's remarks, warning senators they were lowering the bar for Trump, dressing it up with legalese.

"Corruption is still corruption," he said.

One person watching from the sidelines Wednesday was Lev Parnas, the indicted associate of Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani. Parnas arrived at the Capitol but could not enter the Senate with his court-ordered electronic-tracking device. He has turned over evidence for the investigation, and said he wants to testify.

---

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

## **Katie Sowers trailblazer as 1st woman coach at Super Bowl**

**By TERESA M. WALKER AP Pro Football Writer**

MIAMI (AP) — Katie Sowers answered questions on topics ranging from whether it hurt getting her ears pierced (no) to if she wants to be an NFL head coach one day (yes).

For the full 60 minutes of the San Francisco 49ers' portion of media night on Monday, Sowers talked with reporters from around the world on making history as the first woman and first openly gay coach to work the Super Bowl.

"I'm waiting for someone to tell me that this is all a joke, and they're going to be like 'Psych! You're not really there. You're not really a football coach,'" Sowers said. "It's one of those things that you really start to look around you and take advantage of every single day, especially with things happening in the news. You really appreciate the moment."

Being the first woman to coach in the Super Bowl may be surreal. Sowers makes very clear she hopes she's blazing a path for many more to follow.

"I feel like a broken record, but what I want to continue to say is that even though I'm the first, the most important thing is I'm not the last and we continue to grow it," Sowers said.

Simply attending a Super Bowl was Sowers' dream growing up in Hesston, Kansas, and playing football in the yard with her twin sister, Liz.

She might've become a basketball coach after wrapping up her college basketball career at Goshen College in Indiana. But being gay kept her from becoming a volunteer assistant there in 2009. Current

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 26 of 50

Goshen President Rebecca Stoltzfus apologized to Sowers for that last week and noted those sexual orientation policies were ended in 2015.

Sowers played in the Women's Football Alliance and for USA Football's national team, including her best game ever where she intercepted five passes at safety against Germany. Injuries such as a separated shoulder and a torn labrum ended her playing career, leading her to Kansas City where she earned a master's degree at Central Missouri.

"I knew that I had a long road ahead of me if I wanted to be an NFL coach because I didn't have the opportunity to play on a college team," Sowers said. "I didn't have the opportunity to break down film like a lot of these (coaches). ... I didn't have the opportunity to network like a lot of people did. But I was up for the challenge, so I bought every book I could and started doing it myself."

In Kansas City, Sowers also had a part-time job coaching a youth basketball team with then-Chiefs general manager Scott Pioli being one of the parents. After being fired by the Chiefs, Pioli was assistant GM in Atlanta when he helped Sowers into the Bill Walsh Diversity Coaching Fellowship in 2016 with the Falcons working through the offseason and training camp before spending nine months as a scouting intern.

That same fellowship took her to San Francisco in June 2017, working with wide receivers. Kyle Shanahan, who had been offensive coordinator in Atlanta, hired Sowers as an offensive assistant in 2018, and she's gone from breaking down film and working on practice scripts to helping wide receivers coach Wes Welker and other offensive coaches.

And Sowers is considered just a coach with the 49ers.

"She's been tremendous," 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo said. "Katie was here before I was. What she does with the receivers, all the skill position guys, how she interacts with them, it's special. She's feisty, man. Katie is awesome out there. She'll get after the guys. It's fun to be around."

Wide receiver Kendrick Bourne says Sowers draws up more than she talks on the field and does more behind the scenes.

"My rookie year she calmed me down when I played my first preseason game," Bourne said. "She gave me tips to live in the moment. She's cool."

Sowers used letters from young girls to help handle the long hours required of NFL coaches and survive the emotionally draining roller-coaster of a regular season. Her favorite? The girl who shares the Sowers' name.

"She loves sports, and she was so excited to see a woman with her same last name coaching," Sowers said.

Reaching the Super Bowl has brought Sowers a much bigger platform, including a Microsoft commercial that ran repeatedly during the NFL's conference championships. Her sights are set on much more: becoming an NFL head coach.

"Absolutely," she said.

San Francisco cornerback Richard Sherman said getting a head coaching job in the NFL is always going to be a challenge with owners making the final decision and coaches being hired still "look a certain way."

"I think it's unfortunate because there's a lot of qualified, very qualified, coaches of color and female coaches that deserve a job, deserve to get the opportunity to be head coaches," Sherman said.

Well, Sowers has been doubted before.

"Look at me now," she said.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Biden under pressure to prove he can thwart new GOP attacks

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

SIoux CITY, Iowa (AP) — With five days until the Iowa caucuses, Joe Biden is fending off a new onslaught of GOP attacks over his son's business overseas and facing piling pressure to show Democratic voters he can handle the incoming.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 27 of 50

As Republicans amplified their allegations against the former vice president, accusing him of nepotism and worse in a series of charges stemming from the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump, the Biden campaign promised an aggressive and direct counterstrategy ahead of Monday's first nominating contest. Biden planned an address Thursday in Iowa at the same time Trump was to stage a rally in Des Moines.

The Biden campaign was mindful that the last-minute GOP meddling in the Democratic race provides something of a preview of the election ahead should Biden be the party's nominee. As such, it was a test of whether Iowa voters would see strength or weakness in Biden's response.

Biden made his case Wednesday by openly mocking Florida Sen. Rick Scott, a Republican, for running a digital ad in Iowa that repeats Trump's discredited theories about Biden's work in Ukraine as vice president and his son's private business dealings there. The ad came a day after Trump's impeachment defense team repeatedly framed Hunter Biden's tenure on an energy firm's governing board as the real corruption in need of investigation.

"A senator from Florida, sitting in Washington, has decided to start running negative ads against Joe Biden just days before the Iowa caucus," the elder Biden told several hundred Iowa voters in Sioux City. "What do you think that's about? Look, it's simple," he said, returning to an oft-used line: "They're smearing me ... because they know if I'm the nominee, I'm going to beat Donald Trump like a drum."

Biden adviser Anita Dunn was even more pointed, saying of the Scott ad: "We'll pay him to keep it up." Biden campaign manager Greg Schultz said, "This is all a help to us" because it valid Trump's fear.

That's quite a turn from October, when the Biden campaign sent letters to Facebook, Google and Twitter pressuring the online platforms to block ads from Trump's reelection campaign that contained similar debunked allegations against the Bidens. But Dunn and Schultz suggest that their new posture could be the better path to turning a potentially damaging story line into an electoral asset.

"We are going to call out the lies. We are going to confront him," Dunn said of how Biden will handle Trump going forward. "If Joe Biden has proven one thing in this race, it's that he's the person to stand up to Donald Trump."

Yet there are Democrats who see the Biden controversy as a replay of 2016. In that campaign, Trump deflected myriad stories of his own conflicts of interests and business dealings by hammering away at Democrat Hillary Clinton, her use of a private email server as secretary of state and the foreign contributions to the Clinton Foundation created after her husband Bill Clinton's presidency.

"Whether there's anything to it or not, there's going to be a lack of trust and doubt that we could end up like we did four years ago," said Iowa Democrat Emma Thompson, 63, who is considering caucusing for Biden, but is also considering Elizabeth Warren, Pete Buttigieg and Andrew Yang.

These aren't perfect parallels. During the Trump-Clinton campaign, the FBI was actively investigating whether Clinton or her aides subjected classified material to disclosure, and the agency did not close the case — without any criminal charges — until well after Trump was in office. There has been no evidence of wrongdoing by Biden or his son. The elder Biden's efforts to oust a Ukrainian prosecutor reflected the consensus of the U.S. government and its Western allies. And there's no evidence the U.S. government has ever actively investigated Hunter Biden's dealings at Burisma, even under Trump's Justice Department.

Still, Vicky Rossander, an Iowa caucus precinct captain for Sen. Amy Klobuchar, said she's wary: "I don't want to spend the whole election hearing about Burisma and Ukraine."

Republicans appear eager to have the fight.

Besides Scott, GOP senators including Sen. Lindsey Graham have argued that Hunter Biden or the former vice president himself should be called as impeachment trial witnesses. Joe Biden has said he'd comply if called, but sees his testimony as irrelevant to the charges that Trump abused his power and obstructed Congress. Biden aides said Wednesday that they see "no indication of serious movement" toward calling Hunter Biden or his father.

Trump's 2016 campaign architect, Steve Bannon, confirmed in a recent Bloomberg News interview a deliberate strategy: "Isolate and amplify the most damaging charge against the strongest Democratic candidate and hammer into voters' minds until Election Day."

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 28 of 50

And Iowa's Republican Sen. Joni Ernst joined the chorus this week, emerging from the Senate proceedings to wonder aloud to reporters "how this discussion today informs and influences Iowa caucus voters. ... Will they be supporting Vice President Biden at this point?"

In Sioux City, Biden thanked Ernst for "screaming the quiet part into the bullhorn."

"She spilled the beans, didn't she?" Biden said, laughing. "The whole impeachment trial is about whether or not the president tried to interfere in the choice of a nominee for the Democrats." Outlining his preferred outcome, he continued: "Now all caucusgoers can have a twofer. One, you can not only ruin Donald Trump's night if I win the caucus — you can ruin Joni Ernst's night, as well."

Associated Press writers Thomas Beaumont in Mason City, Iowa, and Sara Burnett in Chicago contributed to this report.

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

## Terror attacks drop, but Pakistan 'not out of the woods'

By KATHY GANNON Associated Press

GUJRANWALA, Pakistan (AP) — Terror attacks in Pakistan plummeted by more than 85% over the last decade. It's a welcome statistic for the country, but one that risks being overshadowed by international concern over its efforts to curb terror funding and lingering militant activity that could test any future peace agreement in neighboring Afghanistan.

The tally, put together by Pakistani think tanks, found terror attacks dropped from nearly 2,000 in 2009 to fewer than 250 in 2019, a steady decline that underscores the long-haul nature of fighting terror.

But a Paris-based international watchdog said in October that Pakistan was not doing enough to stop terror financing. The group meets next month to decide whether the country should be downgraded from a "gray" status to "black," alongside Iran and North Korea, a step that could pose a challenge to Pakistan's economy.

Pakistan's militant groups are often interlinked with those across the border in Afghanistan, so its progress at reining in terror is critical, particularly as Washington seeks to secure a deal with the Afghan Taliban to bring an end to the 18-year war, America's longest military engagement.

"The sharp decrease in terrorist violence, which we began to see in 2014, is nothing short of remarkable," said Michael Kugelman, Asia Program Deputy Director at the Washington-based Wilson Center. But, he cautioned, "Pakistan is certainly not out of the woods yet."

Last year, the Financial Action Task Force, or FATF, the watchdog that monitors terror financing, said Pakistan had fully implemented only one item from a list of 40 measures to curb terror financing and money laundering. The other 39 measures were either partially implemented or in some cases overlooked entirely.

If Pakistan is blacklisted, every financial transaction would be closely scrutinized, and doing business with the country would become costly and cumbersome. Pakistani officials say they are working to meet the task force's demands and expect to avoid a black listing at the crucial meeting in Paris in February.

Earlier this month, Pakistan's economic affairs minister held a preliminary meeting with an FATF regional affiliate to make a case for removal from the so-called "gray" list.

Pakistan's military and intelligence have long been accused by Washington, as well as by Pakistan's neighbors, of supporting some militants while attacking others. Over the last two decades, successive American administrations have pressed Islamabad to crack down on terror. Pakistan points to its more than 4,000 military casualties since the 2001 start of the so-called war on terror — higher than the U.S. and NATO deaths combined — as proof of its commitment.

Over the past decade, Pakistan has been home to a large array of militant groups with multiple and sometimes overlapping motives. Some have targeted the government or unleashed horrific bombings and attacks on the country's religious minorities. Others are connected to anti-U.S. militant organizations in Afghanistan or have focused their attacks on Pakistan's historic rival India, particularly in the disputed region of Kashmir.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 29 of 50

Since early last year, Pakistan has banned 66 organizations declared as terrorist or terrorist-supporting groups and listed an estimated 7,600 individuals under its anti-terrorism act.

In a surprisingly tough ruling, a court last week handed jail sentences of more than 55 years to dozens of extremists who destroyed cars and storefronts protesting the acquittal of a Christian woman on blasphemy charges.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan promised "zero tolerance" for extremists after several attacked a Sikh shrine earlier this month in southern Punjab province.

Yet extremist groups and ideologies still find fertile ground in Pakistan.

Pakistan-based organizations like Lashkar-e-Taiba or Jaish-e-Mohammed, which claimed responsibility for a suicide attack last year in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir, have been banned only to be resurrected under new names.

"Radicalization and terrorism remain very real threats, even if the main perpetrators of terror have become shadows of their former selves," Kugelman said.

Amir Rana, executive director of the Islamabad-based Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies, one of the groups which released a report on the decreasing attacks, said the decline was indicative of the long-haul nature of fighting terror and those who perpetrate it. He said it involves years of surveillance, military counterterrorism offensives and a counterterrorism strategy that seeks to identify and curb funding.

Still, Pakistan has a way to go in making the institutional changes necessary to curb terror financing and the militant groups still operating, Rana said. Less than 1% of Pakistanis pay taxes, revenues are routinely undocumented and the so-called hawala system of informally sending money around the globe still flourishes, all of which bedevils efforts to curtail terror financing.

Pakistan's success in tackling terror is essential amid American attempts to wind down the war in Afghanistan and withdraw U.S. troops.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly expressed a desire to bring home the roughly 13,000 U.S. soldiers still in Afghanistan and last November gave his peace envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, the go-ahead to resume talks with the Taliban. Last week, the insurgent group handed Khalilzad a seven- to 10-day cease fire offer, which could pave the way for American troops to withdraw and jumpstart peace negotiations between Afghans on both sides of the conflict.

Khalilzad said previously that any agreement will require the Taliban to abandon terror groups like al-Qaida with which they have longstanding ties that some analysts say could prove difficult to sever.

Links still bind the militant groups operating between Pakistan and Afghanistan, according to Abdullah Khan, of the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies, which also released a report documenting the declining attacks in Pakistan.

Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent, which emerged in 2014 as a rival to the Islamic State affiliate that set up shop in Afghanistan the same year, might be vastly degraded, yet it still has cells in both Pakistan and Afghanistan, as does IS.

Earlier this month, 15 people, including a police official tracking militants, died in an attack on a mosque in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province, for which the IS affiliate claimed responsibility.

Last month, police raided the safe house of a cell of al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent that had just moved into the Punjab city of Gujranwala from the southern port city of Karachi. They discovered a trove of documents, weapons and propaganda material.

A police charge sheet seen by The Associated Press said the five men who were arrested "possessed weapons, suicide jackets, hate material, laptop, printing machine, printing material etc. and funds and receipts to achieve al-Qaida's organizational objectives."

The police document went on to say that the cell was sending money to al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent's branch in Afghanistan.

## Do masks offer protection from new virus? It depends

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — People around the world are buying up protective face masks in hopes of keeping the new virus from China at bay. Some companies have required them for employees. Schools in South Korea have told parents to equip their children with masks and hand sanitizer when they return from winter vacation.

But do the masks work? It depends.

All viruses are small enough to get through a typical strap-on medical mask, but the germs don't generally spread through the air one at a time, said Dr. Mark Denison of Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. Denison studies SARS and MERS, which are coronaviruses, the same family as the new virus.

Instead, viruses ride from person to person on droplets from a sneeze or cough. Those droplets land on hands and other surfaces, where they are touched by others, who then touch their own eyes, noses or mouths.

Masks can block large droplets from a sneeze or cough. That means they have some value, Denison said.

Also, someone in a mask can't touch their own nose and mouth. That can prevent the wearer from picking up germs left on surfaces by someone who is sick, he said.

Masks are "a very sensible precaution" while scientists work to study exactly how the new virus is transmitted, said University of Oxford researcher Trudie Lang.

None of this, however, is based on rigorous research. Nobody has compared groups of masked and unmasked people by exposing them to the new germ, Denison said. A 2017 review of studies in health care workers suggested masks offer some protection against SARS, but the authors noted "existing evidence is sparse and findings are inconsistent."

The best way to avoid getting sick from the new virus is to wash your hands with soap and water. If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. That's the same advice for avoiding regular cold and flu viruses.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends masks for people being evaluated for the new virus, people confirmed to have it, household members and caregivers. Airline crew should offer a face mask to a sick traveler, the CDC said.

Health care workers treating patients with the new virus are advised by the CDC to take additional precautions such as goggles or face shields.

UNICEF said Wednesday it has shipped six metric tons of respiratory masks and protective suits to China for use by health workers.

In Tokyo, 21-year-old hotel employee Hasumi Tsuchida said she wears a mask. "I work in a hotel where many guests are from China," she said. "I worry a bit when foreign guests arrive."

Masks have been commonly used in some countries when wearers are sick, fighting allergies or on days when air pollution is bad. The new virus has fueled demand for them around the world.

Respilon, a Czech company that makes its "nanofiber" masks in China, sold 700,000 of them last year worldwide. Since last week, it received orders for 7 million more. The problem: It cannot make any because the Chinese government extended the Lunar New Year holiday in a bid to contain the virus' spread.

In Taiwan, where the holiday is over, factories are up and running. Premier Su Tseng-chang said the government had already distributed 23 million masks and that Taiwan will be able to produce 4 million more a day.

A mask factory in Shanghai has gone into overdrive despite the holiday.

"We are now working 24 hours, 2 shifts a day, 12 hours shift," said Liao Huolin, president of the mask company. "We violated labor law," Liao said, "but the workers understand."

---

AP journalists Tong-hyung Kim in Seoul; Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo; Havovi Todd in London; Taijing Wu in Taipei, Taiwan; Erika Kinetz in Shanghai and Karel Janicek in the Czech Republic contributed to this report.

---

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 31 of 50

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

## For 1st time in 4 years, US life expectancy rises — a little

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Life expectancy in the United States is up for the first time in four years.

The increase is small — just a month — but marks at least a temporary halt to a downward trend. The rise is due to lower death rates for cancer and drug overdoses.

"Let's just hope it continues," said Robert Anderson, who oversees the report released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The latest calculation is for 2018 and factors in current death trends and other issues. On average, an infant born that year is expected to live about 78 years and 8 months, the CDC said.

For males, it's about 76 years and 2 months; for females 81 years and 1 month.

For decades, U.S. life expectancy was on the upswing, rising a few months nearly every year. But from 2014 to 2017, it fell slightly or held steady. That was blamed largely on surges in overdose deaths and suicides.

Suicides continued to increase in 2018, as did deaths from the flu and pneumonia during what turned out to be an unusually bad flu year. But declines in some other causes of death — most notably cancer and drug overdoses — were enough to overcome all that, according to the report.

Cancer is the nation's No. 2 killer, blamed for about 600,000 deaths a year, so even slight changes in the cancer death rate can have a big impact. The rate fell more than 2%, matching the drop in 2017.

"I'm a little surprised that rapid pace is continuing," said Rebecca Siegel, a researcher for the American Cancer Society.

Most of the improvement is in lung cancer because of fewer smokers and better treatments, she said.

Also striking was the drop in drug overdose deaths that had skyrocketed through 2017. The death rate fell 4% in 2018 and the number of deaths dropped to about 67,400.

Deaths from heroin and prescription painkillers went down, however, deaths from other drugs — fentanyl, cocaine and meth — continued to go up. And preliminary data for the first half of 2019 suggest the overall decline in overdose deaths is already slowing down.

It's still a crisis, said Katherine Keyes, a Columbia University researcher. "But the fact that we have seen the first year where there's not an additional increase is encouraging."

The national decline was driven by dips in 14 states, the CDC's Anderson said. Those include states where overdose deaths have been most common, like Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

In Ohio's Hamilton County, which includes Cincinnati, overdose deaths fell in 2018 and preliminary data indicates another drop last year. County health commissioner Tim Ingram credited efforts to try to expand access to treatment, and to widely distribute the overdose reversal drug Narcan.

"We almost saturated our community with Narcan," he said.

Nationally, for all causes of death, more than 2.8 million Americans died in 2018. That's about 26,000 more than the year before, the CDC report found. The number went up even as the death rate went down, because the population is growing and a large group are retirement age baby boomers.

Other findings:

— The 10 leading causes of death remained the same, with heart disease at No. 1. The death rate for heart disease declined slightly, by less than 1%.

— Death rates also dropped for stroke, Alzheimer's disease, chronic lower respiratory diseases and unintentional injuries, which includes drug overdoses.

— Americans who were 65 in 2018 are expected to live another 19 years and six months, on average.

— The infant mortality rate fell more than 2%, to 1 in 177 births.

— The suicide death rate hit its highest level since 1941 — about 14 per 100,000. The rate peaked during the Depression in 1932 then mostly declined until 2000. It's been rising most years since then.

The U.S. has the highest suicide rate of 11 wealthy nations studied, according to a separate report released Thursday by the private Commonwealth Fund. That report also found U.S. life expectancy is two years lower than the average for the 10 other wealthy nations.

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

## **Trial highlights: Senators' questions launch pointed debate**

**By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Finally playing an active role at President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, senators posed written inquiries that led to pointed, back-and-forth debate Wednesday as Trump's legal team and House Democratic prosecutors pressed their respective cases.

Throughout, the urgent question of whether former national security adviser John Bolton will be allowed to testify remained at the forefront. Democrats argued that Bolton must be allowed to speak to ensure a fair trial, while Republicans said Democrats should have demanded earlier that Bolton and other witnesses testify.

Meanwhile, the actions of former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter, a former executive at a Ukraine energy company, drew continued attention from Republicans amid claims by Democrats that the younger Biden was irrelevant and "a distraction."

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

### **BOLTON FALLOUT**

Republicans strained to contain the fallout over Bolton's forthcoming book, which threatens their hopes of ending the trial with a quick acquittal.

Bolton writes in the book that Trump told him he wanted to withhold military aid from Ukraine until it helped with investigations into Biden, a top Trump rival in the 2020 election. If true, Bolton's assertion undercuts a key defense argument and goes to the heart of one of the two articles of impeachment against the president, abuse of power.

Democrats say the Senate cannot render a fair verdict without calling Bolton or acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney to testify.

"There's no way to have a fair trial without witnesses," said Rep. Adam Schiff, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and the lead Democratic prosecutor.

A handful of Republicans signaled an interest in calling Bolton or other witnesses. "I think Bolton probably has something to offer us," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, who met privately Wednesday with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Murkowski, Maine's Susan Collins and Utah's Sen. Mitt Romney are the Republican senators who have seemed the most open to calling new witnesses. With the Senate split 53-47 in favor of Republicans, at least four GOP senators must join all Democrats to reach the 51 votes required to issue subpoenas.

### **MORE TRUMP ATTACKS**

Before the Senate session even began, Trump repeatedly attacked Bolton on Twitter, saying he fired the hawkish Bolton last fall "because frankly, if I listened to him, we would be in World War Six by now."

Trump also complained that after he left the White House — Bolton says he resigned — the longtime GOP aide "goes out and IMMEDIATELY writes a nasty & untrue book" that includes classified information.

The White House on Wednesday released a letter to Bolton's attorney objecting to "significant amounts of classified information" in the manuscript, including at the top-secret level. Bolton and his attorney have insisted the book does not contain any classified information.

The White House action could delay the book's publication if Bolton is forced to revise his draft.

### **SPIRITED DEBATE**

In the trial's eighth full day, senators finally stood to speak, if only to announce questions that were



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 33 of 50

read aloud by Chief Justice John Roberts. The questions ignited an hours-long debate, with many inquiries focused not so subtly on helping one side or the other clarify arguments made in six days of presentations by House prosecutors and Trump's defense.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said he and other Democrats directed so many questions to the House prosecutors "because they needed the chance to rebut the false arguments, fallacious reasoning, half-truths and even no-truths that the three days the president's counsel made. And this was their first chance to do it."

Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., said the Democrats' complaints were unwarranted.

"No matter what we do in the next several days the Democrats will say this process wasn't everything it should've been, because we're in the majority and they're not," Blunt said.

Asked if completing an impeachment trial without new witnesses would be a bad look for the Senate, Blunt said, "It's for sure bad for democracy that the House didn't do their job." Still, Blunt said senators from both sides were paying attention and said the Senate "looked at everything the House sent over" on impeachment.

## WITNESS QUESTION UNRESOLVED

McConnell privately told senators this week that he doesn't yet have the votes to block Democratic demands for witnesses now that the Bolton revelations have roiled the trial.

Party leaders have warned GOP senators that calling Bolton as a witness could entangle the trial in lengthy legal battles and delay Trump's expected acquittal.

White House lawyer Patrick Philbin made that point in responding to Democrats' first question. "This institution will effectively be paralyzed for months on end" if Bolton is called, Philbin said.

## A BIDEN-BOLTON TRADE?

Saying it's "very important that there be fairness," Collins urged that each side be able to select one or two witnesses, presumably including Bolton and Hunter Biden.

One Democrat, Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, said he was open to hearing from the younger Biden, but Schumer and other Democrats dismissed the idea.

"The four witnesses we have suggested are eyewitness to what happened. Hunter Biden is irrelevant and a distraction," Schumer said.

Trump and McConnell could call for Hunter Biden right now, Schumer added: "They don't want to. They know it would turn things into a circus."

## PARNAS WANTS TO PARTICIPATE

In a sign the circus may already have arrived, a huge media throng watched as Lev Parnas, the indicted associate of Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, showed up at the Capitol saying, "I want to testify." Parnas, who has turned over evidence for the proceedings, cannot enter the Senate with his court-ordered electronic-tracking device.

Lawyer Joseph Bondy said his client, Parnas, would watch the proceedings from a "safe location."

Meanwhile, protesters swarmed the Capitol complex throughout the day, many demanding a fair trial. "No cover-up! We want witnesses!" the protesters chanted outside the Capitol.

## WHAT'S AHEAD

Senators will continue questions Thursday, with crucial votes on witnesses expected as soon as Friday.

## Brain injuries in Iraq put attention on invisible war wounds

By ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The spotlight on brain injuries suffered by American troops in Iraq this month is an example of America's episodic attention to this invisible war wound, which has affected hundreds of thousands over the past two decades but is not yet fully understood.

Unlike physical wounds, such as burns or the loss of limbs, traumatic brain injuries aren't obvious and may take time to diagnose. The full impact may not be evident for some time, as studies have shown links between TBI and mental health problems. They cannot be dismissed as mere "headaches" — the

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 34 of 50

word used by President Donald Trump as he said the injuries suffered by the troops in Iraq were not necessarily serious.

"TBI is a serious injury and one that cannot be taken lightly," said William Schmitz, national commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. "TBI is known to cause depression, memory loss, severe headaches, dizziness and fatigue," sometimes with long-term effects.

The VFW called on Trump to apologize for his "misguided remarks."

Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr., a New Jersey Democrat and founder of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, faulted Trump for displaying "a clear lack of understanding of the devastating impacts of brain injury."

The Pentagon says 50 service members have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury caused by the Jan. 8 Iranian missile attack on an air base in Iraq where U.S. and coalition troops had taken cover in advance. The toll could rise still further. No one was killed in the attack, which was an Iranian effort to avenge the killing of Qassem Soleimani, its most powerful general and leader of its paramilitary Quds Force, in an American drone strike in Baghdad.

Details of the U.S. injuries have not been made public, although the Pentagon said Tuesday that 31 of the 50 who were diagnosed with traumatic brain injury have recovered enough to return to duty. The severity of the other cases has not been disclosed.

The Pentagon did not announce the first confirmed cases until more than a week after the Iranian attack; at that point it said there were 11 cases. The question of American casualties took on added importance at the time of the Iranian strike because the degree of damage was seen as influencing a U.S. decision on whether to counterattack and risk a broader war with Iran. Trump chose not to retaliate, and the Iranians then indicated their strike was sufficient for the time being.

The arc of attention to TBI began in earnest, for the U.S. military, in the early years after it invaded Iraq in 2003 to topple President Saddam Hussein. His demise gave rise to an insurgency that confounded the Americans with crude but devastatingly effective roadside bombs. Survivors often suffered not just grievous physical wounds but also concussions that, along with psychological trauma, became known as the invisible wounds of war.

"For generations, battlefield traumatic brain injuries were not understood and often dismissed," said Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, a New Hampshire Democrat.

The injuries have often been dismissed in part because the problem is not fully understood, although the Pentagon began focusing on the problem in the early 1990s when it established a head injury program that grew into today's Defense and Veteran's Brain Injury Center. Among its work, the center provides published reviews of research related to TBI, including links between severe TBI and behavioral issues such as alcohol abuse and suicide.

A study published this month by University of Massachusetts Amherst health services researchers concluded that military members who suffered a moderate or severe TBI are more likely than those with other serious injuries to experience mental health disorders.

Concern about TBI has recently given rise to questions about whether military members may suffer long-term health damage even from low-level blasts away from the battlefield, such as during training with artillery guns and shoulder-fired rockets.

"We're finding that even a mild blast can cause long-term, life-changing health issues," said Riyi Shi, a professor of neuroscience and biomedical engineering at Purdue University.

A 2018 study by the federally funded RAND Corp. found a dearth of research and understanding of potential damage to the nervous system from repeated exposure to these lower-level blasts. That same year, the Center for a New American Security, a Washington think tank, released a study urging the Pentagon to conduct a blast surveillance program to monitor, record, and maintain data on blast pressure exposure for "any soldier, in training or combat, who is likely to be in a position where he or she may be exposed to blasts." It said this should include brain imaging of soldiers who have been exposed to blasts as part of the study to better understand how blasts affect the brain.

## Trump defense: Ukraine 'quid pro quo' not impeachable

By LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a striking shift from President Donald Trump's claim of "perfect" dealings with Ukraine, his defense asserted Wednesday at his Senate trial that a trade of U.S. military aid for political favors — even if proven — could not be grounds for his impeachment.

Trump's defenders relied on retired professor Alan Dershowitz, a member of their team, who told senators that every politician conflates his own interest with the public interest. "It cannot be impeachable," he declared.

Democrats pressed hard to force the Senate to call more witnesses to testify, but Republicans appeared intently focused on bringing the impeachment trial to a vote of acquittal, possibly in a matter of days. Even new revelations from former national security adviser John Bolton were countered by the president's lawyers, who used Wednesday's unusual question-and-answer session to warn off prolonging the proceeding, insisting senators have heard enough.

Democrats argued Bolton's forthcoming book cannot be ignored. It contends he personally heard Trump say he wanted military aid withheld from Ukraine until it agreed to investigate Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden — the abuse of power charge that is the first article of impeachment.

The vote on calling witnesses is expected by Friday.

As Chief Justice John Roberts fielded queries, Texas Republican Ted Cruz asked if it mattered whether there was a quid pro quo?

Simply, no, declared Dershowitz, who said many politicians equate their reelection with the public good. "That's why it's so dangerous to try to psychoanalyze a president," he said.

Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democrat leading the House prosecutors, appeared stunned.

"All quid pro quos are not the same," he retorted. Some might be acceptable, some not. "And you don't need to be a mind reader to figure out which is which. For one thing, you can ask John Bolton."

With voting on witnesses later this week, Democrats, amid the backdrop of protesters swarming the Capitol, are making a last-ditch push to sway Republicans to call Bolton and others to appear for testimony and ensure a "fair trial."

Trump faces charges from the House that he abused his power like no other president, jeopardizing Ukraine and U.S.-Ukraine relations by using the military aid as leverage while the vulnerable ally battled Russia. The second article of impeachment says Trump then obstructed the House probe in a way that threatened the nation's three-branch system of checks and balances.

Over two days, senators are grilling the House Democrats prosecuting the case and the Republican president's defense team. Dozens of questions were asked and answered Wednesday in five-minute clips, with senators under orders to sit silently without comment, submitting their questions in writing. They finished shortly past 11 p.m. and were expected to keep going Thursday.

Democratic leader Chuck Schumer asked whether the Senate could really render a fair verdict without hearing from Bolton or acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, both potential eyewitnesses to Trump's actions.

"Don't wait for the book. Don't wait 'til March 17, when it is in black and white to find out the answer to your question," Schiff told the Senate.

That publication date is now in doubt. The White House on Wednesday released a letter to Bolton's attorney objecting to "significant amounts of classified information" in the manuscript, including at the top secret level. Bolton and his attorney have insisted the book does not contain any classified information.

The White House action could delay the book's publication if Bolton, who resigned last September — Trump says he was fired — is forced to revise his draft.

GOP senators are straining to balance the new revelations with pressure for quick acquittal. They have been sternly warned by party leaders that calling Bolton as a witness could entangle the trial in lengthy legal battles and delay Trump's expected acquittal.

White House lawyers made exactly that point. Attorney Pat Philbin said in response to the Democrats' first question, "This institution will effectively be paralyzed for months." That was echoed by others.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 36 of 50

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell huddled privately with senators for a third consecutive day, acknowledging he didn't yet have the votes to brush back Democratic demands for witnesses now that revelations from Bolton have roiled the trial. But Republicans said they were making progress.

Republican ideas for dealing with Bolton and his book were fizzling almost as soon as they arose — among them, “swapping” witnesses with Democrats or issuing a subpoena for Bolton’s manuscript.

Most Republican senators don't want to extend the trial by calling Bolton, and most Democrats would rather avoid dragging the Bidens further into the impeachment proceedings. The Bidens were a focus of defense arguments, though no evidence of wrongdoing has emerged.

Bolton writes in a forthcoming book that Trump told him he wanted to withhold military aid from Ukraine until it helped with investigations into Biden. That assertion, if true, would undercut a key defense argument and go to the heart of one of the two articles of impeachment against the president.

“I think Bolton probably has something to offer us,” said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. She met privately Wednesday with McConnell.

Trump disagreed in a tweet Wednesday in which he complained that Bolton, after he left the White House, “goes out and IMMEDIATELY writes a nasty & untrue book. All Classified National Security.”

The uncertainty about witnesses arises days before crucial votes on the issue. In a Senate split 53-47 in favor of Republicans, at least four GOP senators must join all Democrats to reach the 51 votes required to call witnesses, decide whom to call or do nearly anything else in the trial.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine tried to give fresh momentum to a one-for-one witness deal, saying it’s “very important that there be fairness, that each side be able to select a witness or two.” But Democrats dismissed those offers.

“It’s irrelevant. It’s a distraction,” said Schumer.

Collins, Murkowski and Utah Sen. Mitt Romney signaled an interest in calling Bolton or other witnesses, and questions and answers at times appeared directed at them.

Schiff’s response to Dershowitz focused on one particular senator: He asked his audience to imagine what would have happened if then-President Barack Obama asked the Russians to dig up dirt on then-candidate Romney, the GOP’s 2012 presidential nominee?

Romney, standing at the back of the chamber, smiled occasionally at mention of his name.

Far from voiding the last election, Schiff said, impeachment is protecting the next one, in 2020, from any future Trump efforts to ask foreign governments to intervene.

Republicans tried to engage the president’s defense, at times raising the profile of the still anonymous government whistleblower whose complaint about Trump’s July 25 call with Ukraine sparked the impeachment inquiry. Democrats kept focus on the case for Trump’s conviction and removal, which would require 67 votes in the Senate and seems unlikely.

At times, there were telling exchanges. In one, the White House team could not fully respond when Collins and Murkowski asked if Trump had ever pursued Biden investigations before the former vice president announced his presidential bid in 2019.

Philbin argued that relying on foreign information in a U.S. campaign isn’t necessarily a campaign law violation, drawing objections later from Democrats. Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., who said he was “flabbergasted.”

In another, Dershowitz acknowledged he has changed his thinking on what the Founders intended with impeachment and keeps “refining” his views.

As the long night drew to a close, so did Schiff’s remarks, warning senators they were lowering the bar for Trump, dressing it up with legalese.

“Corruption is still corruption,” he said.

One person watching from the sidelines Wednesday was Lev Parnas, the indicted associate of Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani. Parnas arrived at the Capitol but could not enter the Senate with his court-ordered electronic-tracking device. He has turned over evidence for the investigation, and said he wants to testify.

—

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 37 of 50

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

## **Vanessa Bryant statement: 'We are completely devastated'**

**By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer**

Vanessa Bryant made her first public comment Wednesday since the helicopter crash that killed her husband Kobe Bryant, one of their daughters and seven others, taking to Instagram to thank people for the global outpouring of support since the tragedy.

She also announced the formation of a fund to help support the other families that were affected by the crash.

"Thank you for all the prayers. We definitely need them," Vanessa Bryant wrote. "We are completely devastated by the sudden loss of my adoring husband, Kobe — the amazing father of our children; and my beautiful, sweet Gianna — a loving, thoughtful, and wonderful daughter, and amazing sister to Natalia, Bianca, and Capri. We are also devastated for the families who lost their loved ones on Sunday, and we share in their grief intimately."

The Bryants would have celebrated their 19th wedding anniversary this April. They had four daughters including Gianna, the 13-year-old who died in the crash.

"There aren't enough words to describe our pain right now," Vanessa Bryant wrote. "I take comfort in knowing that Kobe and Gigi both knew that they were so deeply loved. We were so incredibly blessed to have them in our lives. I wish they were here with us forever. They were our beautiful blessings taken from us too soon."

It was the first statement from the Bryant family since the crash. The Los Angeles Lakers — the team that Bryant spent 20 years with, winning five championships — held a media availability Wednesday as well, the team's first since learning of Bryant's death.

The Lakers were to play against the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday, a game the NBA postponed out of respect to Bryant, the other victims and the grieving process. The Lakers will next play on Friday, at home against Portland.

"I'm not sure what our lives hold beyond today, and it's impossible to imagine life without them," Vanessa Bryant wrote. "But we wake up each day, trying to keep pushing because Kobe, and our baby girl, Gigi, are shining on us to light the way. Our love for them is endless — and that's to say, immeasurable. I just wish I could hug them, kiss them and bless them. Have them here with us, forever."

There has been no announcement on funeral or memorial plans yet for Kobe and Gianna Bryant. Vanessa Bryant asked for a continued respect of her family's privacy as they begin to "navigate this new reality."

---

More AP coverage of the life and death of Kobe Bryant: <https://apnews.com/KobeBryant>

---

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/NBA> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## **DJ Khaled, Cardi B, Gaga to perform during Super Bowl week**

**By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer**

MIAMI (AP) — DJ Khaled will be celebrating his first-ever Grammy win in the city where the former radio host built his career: Miami.

The hitmaker will perform at multiple pre-Super Bowl events this week, which will be jam-packed with other A-list celebrities, including Diddy, Shaquille O'Neal, Lady Gaga, Lizzo, Post Malone, Kevin Hart, Vin Diesel, Cardi B, Chris Brown, Guns N' Roses and Maroon 5.

"Oh yeah, we're definitely celebrating (this) week. I remember Super Bowl came here 10 years ago and it was a special time. We want to make this special, too," Khaled said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I'm excited it's in Miami."

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 38 of 50

Khaled is fresh off winning a Grammy Award for best rap/sung performance for "Higher," a collaboration with late rapper Nipsey Hussle and R&B star John Legend.

Super Bowl week will mirror the Grammys, which took place Jan. 26, with the number of big music stars performing ahead of Jennifer Lopez and Shakira's halftime show Sunday at the Hard Rock Stadium, where the San Francisco 49ers will take on the Kansas City Chiefs.

Khaled will perform at Bud Light Super Bowl Music Fest's EA Sports Bowl, the VEWTOPIA Music Festival and Rolling Stone's party.

Others, too, will perform several times throughout the week, including Lil Wayne, Snoop Dogg, the Chainsmokers, DaBaby, Marshmello, Megan Thee Stallion, Meek Mill and Tiesto.

Cardi B will perform at a concert celebrating the trailer for the upcoming film "Fast & Furious 9"; Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez, John Cena and Tyrese will also attend, while Ludacris, Wiz Khalifa, Charlie Puth and Ozuna will hit the stage. The Grammy-winning rapper will also hold a late-night performance at LIV and headline VEWTOPIA.

Lizzo will also double up with performances: She will sing at SiriusXM & Pandora Opening Drive Super Concert Series and then at the Planet Pepsi Zero Sugar party, which will also feature Harry Styles and Mark Ronson at Meridian at Island Gardens.

Gaga, who headlined the halftime show in 2017, will perform at the same venue for AT&T TV Super Saturday Night, held a day before Super Bowl 54.

Post Malone will hit the stage for Bootsy On the Water, a Bootsy Bellows pop-up, which will be hosted by Kevin Hart. Swae Lee, who collaborated with Malone on the hit "Sunflower," will host an event to launch his shoe collection with Giuseppe Zanotti.

Budweiser will launch the Budx Hotel on South Beach with events featuring Dwyane Wade and Halsey; Karamo Brown of "Queer Eye" is part of an event for Stella Artois; and Guy Fieri will host 2020 The Players Tailgate.

Shaq's Fun House, the NBA legend's carnival-themed music festival, is coming back to Miami and will feature performances by Diddy, Pitbull, Diplo and Shaq himself, a.k.a. DJ Diesel.

"Big Game Weekend has never seen a lineup like this!," O'Neal said in a statement. "Bigger venue, bigger state fair sized carnival, bigger line-up."

O'Neal made his statement before the death of Kobe Bryant on Sunday in a helicopter crash that also killed Bryant's 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven other people.

In an Instagram post on Wednesday, O'Neal, who has been distraught since the tragedy, said he was debating whether he should still go to Miami.

"Part of me wanted to stay to myself as I reflect what my brother and his family mean to me and my family," he wrote. "But in thinking what would Kobe want, what would he do? Kobe would want us to push through and celebrate life. So let's just do that."

He added he would donate all his proceeds to "all the families who lost loved ones and to the Kobe and Vanessa Bryant Foundation."

This story has been corrected to show that Kobe Bryant and eight others died in a helicopter crash, not a plane crash.

## Authorities find longest Southwest border smuggling tunnel

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — U.S. authorities on Wednesday announced the discovery of the longest smuggling tunnel ever found on the Southwest border, stretching more than three-quarters of a mile from an industrial site in Tijuana, Mexico, to the San Diego area.

The tunnel featured an extensive rail cart system, forced air ventilation, high voltage electrical cables and panels, an elevator at the tunnel entrance and a drainage system.

While there were no arrests, no drugs found at the site and no confirmed exit point in the U.S., the

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 39 of 50

length — more than 14 football fields — stunned authorities.

"This one blows past (the second-longest)," said Lance LeNoir, a Border Patrol operations supervisor. "We never really thought they had the moxie to go that far. They continue to surprise me."

The tunnel exposes limitations of President Donald Trump's border wall, which stretches several feet underground in the area and is considered effective against small, crudely built tunnels often called "gopher holes." The one announced Wednesday was found about 70 feet (21 meters) underground, well below the wall.

Following the discovery in August, Mexican law enforcement identified the entrance and U.S. investigators mapped the tunnel that extends a total of 4,309 feet. (1,313 meters). The next longest tunnel in the U.S. was discovered in San Diego in 2014. It was 2,966 feet (904 meters) long.

The newly discovered tunnel is about 5.5 feet (1.68 meters) tall and 2 feet (0.61 meters) wide and runs at an average depth of 70 feet (21.3 meters) below the surface, officials said.

Agents discovered several hundred sandbags blocking a suspected former exit of the tunnel in San Diego's Otay Mesa industrial warehouse area. It went under several warehouses in Otay Mesa, where sophisticated tunnels have typically ended, and extended into open fields.

U.S. authorities say they are confident that the tunnel exited in San Diego at one time, based on its trajectory.

LeNoir, a veteran on the multiagency task force of tunnel investigators known as "tunnel rats," said he made his way through about 50 feet (15 meters) of sugar sacks blocking the tunnel but couldn't go any farther.

An incomplete offshoot of the tunnel that extended 3,529 feet (1,090 meters) suggested to authorities that smugglers had plugged an initial exit point and were building another.

The suspected previous exit "became unsustainable for whatever reason, so they built a spur," Border Patrol spokesman Jeff Stephenson said.

By federal law, U.S. authorities must fill the U.S. side of tunnels with concrete after they are discovered.

"The sophistication and length of this particular tunnel demonstrates the time-consuming efforts transnational criminal organizations will undertake to facilitate cross-border smuggling," said Cardell T. Morant, acting special agent in charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations unit in San Diego.

Authorities have found 15 sophisticated tunnels on California's border with Mexico since 2006, with hallmarks including lighting, ventilation, railway tracks and hydraulic lifts.

The tunnels are concentrated in Otay Mesa, an area where clay-like soil is conducive to digging and warehouses provide cover.

The latest tunnel was discovered by Mexican authorities in a Tijuana parking lot for cargo trucks, next to the city's airport.

U.S. authorities mapped its course, drilled a hole on the U.S. side and lowered a camera to determine where to start making their way through.

"It was endless," LeNoir said.

Authorities didn't say who they believe was behind the tunnel but the area has been a stronghold of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel. The cartel's longtime leader, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, was sentenced to life in U.S. prison in July.

## Fun-loving TEs Kelce, Kittle the life of Super Bowl party

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr. AP Pro Football Writer

MIAMI (AP) — They've got swagger, style and lots and lots of catches.

Kansas City's Travis Kelce and San Francisco's George Kittle are talkative tight ends at this year's Super Bowl and among the most entertaining personalities in the NFL — Rob Gronkowski-types who could play big roles in who wins the big game Sunday.

"I just love to live life, man," Kelce said with a big smile. "And I like to enjoy happiness along the way."

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 40 of 50

That comes from a guy whose silly, entertaining, ridiculous, hilarious — or, all of the above — dances to celebrate his touchdowns instantly go viral moments after he gets into the end zone.

The 6-foot-5, 260-pound Kelce has “Hit the Quan” and done “The Chicken Head” and everything in between. He’s the life of a football party that has moved to the NFL’s biggest stage — and with a world-wide audience watching.

“I just think any time he gets the ball in the end zone, I ask him all the time, ‘How do you come up with these dances, man? Just how do you come up with all this stuff?’” said Chiefs offensive tackle Eric Fisher, who was fined \$14,037 for dumping two beers on himself while celebrating a touchdown in Kansas City’s divisional round win over Houston.

“I don’t know, man,” Fisher added. “I think his touchdown celebrations are one of a kind and will go down in history.”

Kelce is also doing a pretty good job of getting himself into the record books with his play.

He holds the NFL record for the most seasons by a tight end with 1,000 or more yards receiving with four, and counting. Kelce is a favorite target of Patrick Mahomes and established himself as possibly the best all-around tight end in the game.

“Kelce’s a beast,” Chiefs wide receiver Tyreek Hill said. “He’s special. I’ve never seen a guy that size to have that much ability or to carry that kind of swagger. He’s definitely a leader.”

The 49ers say the same of the playmaking Kittle, who was selected a first-team All-Pro this season. The third-year tight end has had 85 catches or more and 1,000 yards receiving in each of his past two years.

Kittle is a fun-loving character whose approach to the game mimics that of a playful professional wrestler. After all, his nickname is “Stone Cold Kittle” — after “Stone Cold” Steve Austin.

He even uses a gesture to celebrate first downs that he borrowed from Pentagón Jr., a Mexican wrestler. He makes a circle with his thumb and forefinger to form a “0” and then flicks his wrist so his other fingers form an “M” for Pentagón Jr.’s catch phrase: “Cero miedo,” which means, “zero fear.”

“I think we’re all a little different, but he’s unique and you see it on the field,” 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said. “He has a personality where he goes 100 mph in whatever he does. That’s probably why he’s going to have a WWE career after this. What’s cool is that’s kind of who he is and then you see it on the field. That’s why whether he does perfect or not, he always makes plays with his attitude when the ball is in his hands.”

That all started when Kittle was in college at Iowa, where then-tight ends coach Levar Woods gave him homework. The assignment: Watch videos of the best players at the position and take anything he can use to add to his game.

Kittle couldn’t stop looking at film of Kelce, filling his iPad with film of the Chiefs star.

Every play, every game.

“Whether it’s what he does in the red zone, how he runs his routes, his mindset every time he steps on the football field. I think the thing that really kind of stands out the most is you see his personality when he plays and how much fun he has,” Kittle said. “Very similar to Gronk and his personality, the way it shows. I think they just kind of opened the door for tight ends like me to be able to express ourselves on the football field.”

Or, off it.

Kittle is an affable guy who’s always smiling and cracking jokes. After the 49ers’ victory over Green Bay in the NFC championship game, the tight end walked around doing TV interviews while wearing a T-shirt of a bare-chested quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo that a fan sent to him.

Of course, photos and video went viral. Just like his first-down celebrations.

“I think we both have a really good time playing football,” Kittle said. “You can see that on the tape. We both just enjoy being out there with our teammates. We both make plays when we’re asked to, and I think we both make plays when we’re not asked to.”

They’ve also been able to make plays when they aren’t there.

Last season, Kittle had the most yards after catch since the stat began being tracked in 2010 with 870.



He ranked first this season among non-running backs with 602.

"One guy shouldn't bring us down," the 6-4, 245-pound Kittle said. "And if you have that mindset, where you're going to run through someone's face, it definitely makes the YAC a lot easier."

Kelce isn't too shabby, either, ranking third among tight ends with 410 yards after catch.

"I do believe the run after catch is something I've been able to have a knack since I have been in the league," Kelce said. "Obviously, since Kittle has been in the league, he's taken that to a whole other level."

The two tight ends are far from one-dimensional. They do more than their fair share of blocking, too, while contributing to their teams' running games.

They'll hit defenders with a smile. And, then show off some dance moves.

"I think we're both positive guys," Kelce said with a big smile. "We both love to play the game and, at the same time, we both love life."

---

AP Pro Football Writers Josh Dubow and Barry Wilner, and AP Sports Writer Dave Skretta contributed.

---

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Health experts: Human-to-human spread of new virus worrying

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — World health officials expressed "great concern" Wednesday that a dangerous new virus is starting to spread between people outside of China, a troubling development as China and the world frantically work to contain the outbreak. For a second day, the number of infections grew dramatically.

The new virus has now infected more people in China than were sickened there during the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak. On Wednesday, the number of cases jumped to 5,974, surpassing the 5,327 people diagnosed with SARS.

The death toll, which rose to 170 on Wednesday, is still less than half the number who died in China from SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome. Scientists say there are many questions to be answered about the new virus, including just how easily it spreads and how severe it is.

In a report published Wednesday, Chinese researchers suggested that person-to-person spread among close contacts occurred as early as mid-December. Based on the first 425 confirmed cases, the researchers estimate that each infection led to 2.2 others on average. That's a bit more than ordinary flu but far less than some other respiratory diseases such as whooping cough and tuberculosis. The rate for SARS, a cousin to this new virus, was estimated to be 3.

"Considerable efforts" will be needed to control the spread if this ratio holds up elsewhere, researchers wrote in the report, published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

More than half of the cases in which symptoms began before Jan. 1 were tied to a seafood market, but only 8% of cases after that have been, researchers found. They reported the average incubation period was five days.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization's emergencies chief said the few cases of human-to-human spread of the virus outside China — in Japan, Germany, Canada and Vietnam — were of "great concern" and were part of the reason the U.N. health agency's director-general was reconvening a committee of experts on Thursday to assess whether the outbreak should be declared a global emergency.

Dr. Michael Ryan spoke at a news conference in Geneva after returning from a trip to Beijing to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other senior government leaders. He said China was taking "extraordinary measures in the face of an extraordinary challenge" posed by the outbreak.

To date, about 99% of the nearly 6,000 cases are in China. Ryan estimated the death rate of the new virus at 2%, but said the figure was very preliminary. With fluctuating numbers of cases and deaths, scientists are only able to produce a rough estimate of the fatality rate and it's likely many milder cases of the virus are being missed.

In comparison, the SARS virus killed about 10% of people who caught it. The new virus is from the

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 42 of 50

coronavirus family, which includes those that can cause the common cold as well as more serious illnesses such as SARS and MERS.

Ryan noted there were several aspects of the new virus outbreak that are extremely worrying, citing the recent rapid spike in cases in China. He said that while scientists believe the outbreak was sparked by an animal virus, it's unclear if there are other factors driving the epidemic.

"Without understanding that, it's very hard to put into context the current transmission dynamics," he said.

Meanwhile, countries began evacuating their citizens from the Chinese city hardest-hit by the virus. Chartered planes carrying about 200 evacuees each arrived in Japan and the United States as other countries planned similar evacuations from the city of Wuhan, which authorities have shut down to try to contain the virus.

The U.S. plane arrived in California after a refueling stop in Alaska. All 195 passengers, who included diplomats from the U.S. Consulate in Wuhan, passed health screenings in China and Anchorage, and were to undergo three days of monitoring at a Southern California military base to ensure they show no signs of the illness.

"The whole plane erupted into cheers when the crew welcomed them back to the United States," Dr. Anne Zink, Alaska's chief medical officer, told reporters in Anchorage.

Four passengers on the evacuation flight to Japan had coughs and fevers, and two were diagnosed with pneumonia. It wasn't clear whether they were infected with the new virus, which first appeared in Wuhan in December. Its symptoms, including cough and fever and in severe cases pneumonia, are similar to many other illnesses.

Takeo Aoyama, an employee at Nippon Steel Corp.'s subsidiary in Wuhan, told reporters he was relieved to return home.

"We were feeling increasingly uneasy as the situation developed so rapidly and we were still in the city," Aoyama said, his voice muffled by a white surgical mask.

The first cases in the Middle East were confirmed Wednesday, a family of four from Wuhan that was visiting the United Arab Emirates. Airlines around the world announced they were cutting flights to China, and Hong Kong was suspending rail travel to and from the mainland at midnight.

The number of cases in China rose to 1,459 from the previous day, a smaller increase than the 1,771 new cases reported Tuesday. Australia, Finland and Singapore were among those reporting new cases, as the number outside China topped 70. The vast majority are people who came from Wuhan.

Australia, New Zealand and Britain were among the latest countries to announce they are planning evacuations.

British health secretary Matt Hancock tweeted that "anyone who returns from Wuhan will be safely isolated for 14 days, with all necessary medical attention." The measures are a step up from those during the devastating 2014-16 Ebola outbreak, when returning travelers from West Africa were asked to monitor themselves for symptoms.

Mark Woolhouse, a professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the University of Edinburgh, said the steps are justified to prevent the introduction of the virus and its spread.

"There's always a balance between the draconian measures of public health and what people might want to do, and obviously it's regrettable if people who turn out not to have the virus are quarantined unnecessarily," he said.

In China's Hubei province, 17 cities including Wuhan have been locked down, trapping more than 50 million people in the most far-reaching disease control measures ever imposed.

During the 2002-2003 SARS epidemic, China was slammed for hiding that outbreak for months, allowing it to spread unchecked before reporting it to the WHO. Even after inviting international experts to investigate the epidemic, SARS patients were moved from hospitals and driven around in ambulances to conceal the true extent of the virus' spread.

Although the Chinese health minister and others have suggested that the virus is spreading before

people get symptoms, data to confirm that has not yet been shared widely beyond China.

"It's still unclear whether that takes place," said Malik Peiris, chair in virology at the University of Hong Kong.

"The fortunate thing about SARS, if there was anything fortunate, was that transmission did not take place before symptoms," he said. If it turns out that the new coronavirus can indeed be spread by people who don't show any symptoms, "a pandemic is a scenario that we have to consider."

Associated Press writers Maria Cheng and Jill Lawless in London; Marilyn Marchione in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Mark Thiessen in Anchorage, Alaska; Amy Taxin in Riverside, California; and Christina Larson in Washington contributed to this report.

## Democrats' early 2020 blitz to strike in Texas flops

By PAUL J. WEBER Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — If Texas is going to be competitive in 2020, the first race wasn't.

Democrats went all-in on a legislative runoff in the booming Houston suburbs, drumming up endorsements from Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren and putting \$1 million on the ground. Still, a Republican real estate developer who had lost seven previous tries for office cruised to a double-digit victory.

It was a high-profile defeat for Democrats who supercharged a sleepy statehouse special election in a bid to make an early 2020 strike on the GOP's biggest turf. On Wednesday, Republicans called it a lesson.

"They made a big mistake by nationalizing," said Republican strategist Karl Rove, the former adviser to President George W. Bush.

In final unofficial results, Republican Gary Gates polled 58% of the vote to 42% for Democrat Eliz Markowitz.

But despite the unusual attention on the race, the outcome is no surefire predictor of what's in store for Texas. Turnout for the race was more than 30,000 — far better than typical statehouse runoffs in Texas but still a fraction of how many are expected to vote in fast-growing Fort Bend County come November. And Democrats, who need to flip nine legislative seats to claim a majority in the Texas House for the first time since 2001, have more favorable targets than state House District 28.

But before Tuesday's blowout, Democrats said there was reason to believe. President Donald Trump carried the district by 10 points in 2016, but two years later, Beto O'Rourke got within 3 points in his failed U.S. Senate run. In the final stretch, the race drew support from Biden, who said it could "set the tone for the entire general election in 2020."

Democrats sought to downplay the loss, and outside groups that amplified the race said it wouldn't cause them to retreat in Texas.

"That really isn't going to change," said Ross Morales Rocketto, co-founder of Run for Something, which recruits Democratic candidates nationwide. "But I think one thing a lot of Democratic and progressive donors need to really think hard about is what is going to be required to invest in the state of Texas, in order for us to get the outcomes that we want?"

Texas' fast-growing suburbs that carried the GOP for a generation are quickly changing, and Democrats are counting on voters there turning away from Trump to make gains. Last summer, Texas House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, a Republican, was caught confiding to a conservative activist in a secretly recorded meeting that Trump was "killing us" in urban and suburban districts.

Dave Carney, an adviser to Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who helped Gates' campaign, said Trump wasn't a factor.

"The president really wasn't an issue other than the motivation for these national Democrats to come down here and talk," Carney said.

## Author tour for controversial 'American Dirt' is canceled

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The publisher of Jeanine Cummins' controversial novel "American Dirt" has canceled the remainder of her promotional tour, citing concerns for her safety.

The novel about a Mexican mother and her young son fleeing to the U.S. border had been praised widely before its Jan. 21 release and was chosen by Oprah Winfrey for her book club. But Mexican American writers have been among those strongly criticizing "American Dirt" for stereotypical depictions of Mexicans. Cummins is of Irish and Puerto Rican background and had herself raised questions about the narrative, writing in an author's note at the end of the book that she had wondered if "someone slightly browner than me" should have done it.

"Jeanine Cummins spent five years of her life writing this book with the intent to shine a spotlight on tragedies facing immigrants," Bob Miller, president and publisher of Flatiron Books, said in a statement Wednesday. "We are saddened that a work of fiction that was well-intentioned has led to such vitriolic rancor.

"Unfortunately, our concerns about safety have led us to the difficult decision to cancel the book tour."

Flatiron Books is instead hoping to organize a series of town hall discussions.

Cummins, 45, had made a handful of promotional appearances since her book was released, but over the past few days the St. Louis-based Left Bank Books had called off an event and Flatiron had canceled interviews in California. The tour for her heavily promoted book had been scheduled to last at least through mid-February, with planned stops everywhere from Seattle to Oxford, Mississippi.

Miller says that the town hall gatherings would include Cummins and her critics, calling it "an opportunity to come together and unearth difficult truths to help us move forward as a community." On Wednesday, a spokesperson for Winfrey confirmed that Winfrey will meet as planned with the author next month and that the discussion will air in March on Apple TV Plus. "American Dirt" was the third novel picked by Winfrey since she began a partnership with Apple last year.

Earlier Wednesday, dozens of authors, including Valeria Luiselli, Viet Thanh Nguyen and Tommy Orange, published an open letter to Winfrey that urged her to reconsider her selection of Cummins' novel.

"The book club provides a seal of approval that can still, we hope, be changed," they wrote. "Good intentions do not make good literature particularly not when the execution is so faulty, and the outcome so harmful."

Winfrey first chose "American Dirt" last fall, before any criticism had emerged and acknowledged in a pre-publication interview with the AP that she was unaware of any controversy. She has since posted a video on Instagram, saying that she had been following the debate and hoped for a broad discussion.

"I've spent the past few days listening to members of the Latinx community to get a greater understanding of their concerns, and I hear them. I do," Winfrey said in the video. "What I want to do is bring people together from all sides to talk about this book."

"American Dirt" has dramatized ongoing issues of diversity in publishing that mirror criticisms of Hollywood. From publishers and editors to booksellers and agents, the book industry is predominantly white. Miller acknowledged that the novel "exposed deep inadequacies" at Flatiron and apologized for how the novel was promoted.

"We should never have claimed that it was a novel that defined the migrant experience; we should not have said that Jeanine's husband was an undocumented immigrant while not specifying that he was from Ireland," he wrote. He also referred to a picture that surfaced on social media from a promotional dinner last May, when table centerpieces included barbed wire decorations based on the book's cover image.

"We can now see how insensitive those and other decisions were, and we regret them," Miller said.

Flatiron is a division of Macmillan and has had authors ranging from former Vice President Joe Biden to Winfrey, who also has her own imprint at Flatiron that is releasing an Alicia Keys memoir in March.

One of Cummins' leading detractors, Myriam Gurba, tweeted Wednesday that she, too, had security concerns. She wrote she had received death threats because of her criticisms and added "Let's talk about

the SAFETY of MIGRANTS and LATINX ppl. That's what that book was intended to do, right?"

Cummins was defended by Ann Patchett, the author and bookstore owner who runs Parnassus Books in Nashville and gave the book an early blurb. In an email to The Associated Press, she wrote that Cummins had done a "beautiful job talking about the journey she's been on with this book," but that she understood the decision to end the tour.

"For the record, I loved 'American Dirt.' I've never in my life seen this kind of public flogging," she wrote.

Despite the criticism, Cummins' novel was easily the top-selling work of fiction last week, according to NPD BookScan, which tracks around 85 percent of the print market. "American Dirt" sold more than 48,000 copies during its first week, even topping Delia Owens' blockbuster "Where the Crawdads Sing," which sold just under 25,000 copies.

## Israel postpones move to annex large parts of West Bank

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel has postponed a move to annex large parts of the West Bank, a government minister said Wednesday, a day after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to quickly act on the Trump administration's Mideast plan despite fierce Palestinian opposition.

Netanyahu had said the Cabinet would vote Sunday on extending Israeli sovereignty to dozens of Jewish settlements as well as the Jordan Valley, a move that risks provoking a harsh backlash from the Palestinians and the international community.

But he appears to have put annexation on hold to explore the legal ramifications and to coordinate it with the United States.

Tourism Minister Yariv Levin told Israel Radio that a Cabinet vote on annexing territories on Sunday was not technically feasible because of various preparations, including the need to consult Israel's attorney general. Israel has not had a permanent government in a year, following two inconclusive elections, and it's unclear if a caretaker government can embark on such a move.

David Friedman, the American ambassador to Israel, told reporters that a joint U.S.-Israeli committee would need to ensure that the extension of Israeli sovereignty matches up with a "conceptual map" released by the administration showing the borders of a future Palestinian state.

"It is a process that does require some effort, some understanding, some calibration," he said. "I'm not going to speculate how long that will take. The president did use the word 'immediately.'"

The Palestinians angrily rejected the Trump plan, which would allow Israel to annex all its settlements in the West Bank while giving the Palestinians limited self-rule over the Gaza Strip, chunks of the West Bank and other far-flung areas linked together by roads, bridges and tunnels. It also grants Israel virtually all of east Jerusalem, including the Old City and holy sites.

The Palestinians view the settlements in the West Bank and annexed east Jerusalem — territories seized by Israel in the 1967 war — as a major obstacle to peace. That position is held by much of the international community, which views the settlements as illegal.

Levin, a senior member of Netanyahu's hawkish Likud party, appeared to acknowledge that almost none of the Palestinians' demands are met in the Trump plan. He said the Palestinian state it envisions is "roughly the same Palestinian Authority that exists today, with authority to manage civil affairs," but lacking "substantive powers" like border control or a military.

The U.S. initiative appears unlikely to lead to a negotiated solution to the decades-old conflict, but offered a boost to both Trump and Netanyahu, who are each campaigning for re-election under a cloud of allegations of wrongdoing.

Netanyahu was formally indicted on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust hours before the Trump initiative was announced, when he withdrew a request for immunity that was likely to be rejected by Israel's parliament. That move cleared the way for Netanyahu to become the first sitting Israeli prime minister to face a criminal trial.

Trump, meanwhile, was impeached last year and is being tried in the Senate.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 46 of 50

With Trump's help, Netanyahu has largely succeeded in shifting attention from his legal woes to his vaunted diplomatic skills.

Toward that end, Netanyahu was flying from Washington to Moscow, where he is scheduled to brief President Vladimir Putin about the Trump plan. He is expected to return to Israel with a young Israeli woman who was jailed in Russia on drug charges, after Putin pardoned her. The case had attracted widespread attention in Israel, and the pardon could give Netanyahu an electoral boost.

The plan put forth by Trump is the most generous and detailed proposal ever offered to Israel, and is a hit among Netanyahu's right-wing base as well as Trump's evangelical Christian supporters in the United States.

But its implementation could be delayed until Israel forms a permanent government, something that has eluded its fractious political parties for the last year. Benny Gantz, a former army chief and the leading contender to replace Netanyahu, also met with Trump over the weekend and has welcomed Trump's proposal.

Gantz announced late Wednesday that he would bring the Trump initiative before parliament for approval next week.

But while Israelis have hailed the plan, the international response has ranged from tepid shows of support to outright hostility. Trump hopes to rally Arab support for it and says "many, many" countries "want this to happen," without naming them.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt, Arab states that are key U.S. allies, said they appreciated the administration's efforts and called on Israel and the Palestinians to resume direct talks. But neither country has commented on the details of the plan. Jordan reaffirmed its commitment to a Palestinian state along the 1967 lines and warned against any annexation.

The head of the Arab League said Wednesday that an initial study of the plan's 50-page political framework showed that it "ignored legitimate Palestinian rights in the territories."

Ahmed Aboul-Gheit said the Palestinian response would be key in shaping a "collective Arab position" on the plan, which he noted was a "non-binding U.S. vision." The Arab League plans to hold an urgent meeting Saturday on the proposal.

After attending that meeting, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas intends to discuss the plan at an African Union gathering and a U.N. Security Council meeting in the next two weeks, the Palestinians' U.N. ambassador, Riyad Mansour, said Wednesday.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was quoted by state-run media as saying the plan amounts to a "legalization of Israel's occupation" of Palestinian territories and "will not serve peace or a solution."

Catholic officials in the Holy Land also rejected the initiative, saying it heavily favors Israel while failing to give dignity to the Palestinians. "This plan will bring no solution but rather will create more tensions and probably more violence and bloodshed," they said.

Hard-line Israeli nationalists have meanwhile called for the immediate annexation of West Bank settlements ahead of the March 2 elections, the third in less than a year.

They have eagerly embraced the part of the plan that would allow Israel to annex territory but have rejected its call for a Palestinian state.

"That which is postponed to after the elections will never happen," Israeli Defense Minister Naftali Bennett, a hard-line ally of Netanyahu, tweeted Wednesday.

"If we postpone or reduce the extension of sovereignty (in the West Bank), then the opportunity of the century will turn into the loss of the century," he said.

Nahum Barnea, a veteran Israeli columnist, criticized the Trump plan in the Yediot Achronot newspaper, saying it would create a Palestinian state "more meager than Andorra, more fractured than the Virgin Islands."

He cautioned that annexation would lead to "a reality of two legal systems for two populations in the same territory — one ruling, the second occupied. In other words, an Apartheid state."

---

Associated Press writers Ilan Ben Zion in Jerusalem, Samy Magdy in Cairo, Suzan Fraser in Ankara,

Turkey, and Jennifer Peltz at the United Nations contributed to this report.

## Grounded jet sends Boeing to first annual loss in 2 decades

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

Boeing, an icon of American manufacturing, suffered its first annual financial loss in more than two decades while the cost of fixing its marquee aircraft after two deadly crashes soared to more than \$18 billion.

New CEO David Calhoun on Wednesday stood by his estimate that regulators will certify changes Boeing is making to the 737 Max by mid-year.

Calhoun criticized the company's prior leadership for not immediately disclosing a trove of damning internal communications that raised safety questions about the Max. He promised to be more transparent.

"I have to restore trust, confidence and faith in the Boeing Co.," he told Wall Street analysts.

Boeing reported a loss of \$1 billion in the fourth quarter as revenue plunged 37% due to the grounding of the Max. The company suspended deliveries of the plane last spring and hadn't expected the stoppage to last this long.

The company lost \$636 million for all 2019, compared with a profit of nearly \$10.5 billion in 2018. It was the first annual loss since 1997, when Boeing was roiled by parts shortages, production delays, and expenses from merging with McDonnell Douglas.

Boeing's problems aren't limited to the Max.

Slowing demand for larger planes led the company to announce it will reduce production of the 787 Dreamliner from 14 a month to 12 later this year, then 10 early next year. The plane has become more important to Boeing's health during the Max grounding.

In addition, Boeing's 777X jet is behind schedule, and a decision on whether to build a new mid-size plane to compete with one from Airbus has been delayed.

Revenue in the company's defense and space business fell 13% and it took a \$410 million charge in case NASA requires another unmanned flight of the Starliner — the spacecraft that failed to reach the International Space Station during a test flight in December.

Boeing's focus, however, is on fixing the Max. Without any Max deliveries since April, the company is burning through cash, and Boeing confirmed that it is lining up bank commitments for \$12 billion in new borrowing.

The Max was grounded worldwide last March, after two crashes within five months killed 346 people in Indonesia and Ethiopia. The crisis torpedoed sales and deliveries of new jetliners, leaving Boeing far behind Airbus. It caused a shutdown in Max production, layoffs at suppliers, and led to the firing of CEO Dennis Muilenburg.

U.S. airlines that own Maxes — Southwest, American and United — don't expect it back until after the peak of the summer travel season. It is anyone's guess about how willing passengers will be to fly on the plane.

The head of the Federal Aviation Administration, Stephen Dickson, told U.S. airline officials late last week that he was content with Boeing's progress toward getting the Max back in the year, raising the possibility that the plane could fly sooner than Boeing has estimated.

Calhoun said Wednesday he appreciated Dickson's comments, but they wouldn't cause him to change Boeing's projection of regulatory approval by midyear because Dickson could change his tune in a month.

Calhoun insisted the Max "is a sound airplane" that will be safer than ever after extensive tests and scrutiny by the FAA. He said passengers will fly on it once they see pilots get on board.

"Airplanes unfortunately have gone down before," he told reporters. "People take a breath and wonder whether they'll ever fly one again ... and then slowly and steadily, they do."

Boeing won't change the name of the plane either, as President Donald Trump and others have suggested. "I'm not going to market my way out of this," Calhoun told CNBC.

Boeing has been embarrassed in recent weeks by the disclosure of years-old internal messages in which test pilots and other key employees raised safety concerns about the Max — even saying they wouldn't put their families on it — while the plane was in development and testing.

Calhoun criticized company leaders who didn't disclose the messages right away. He said if the right people in leadership had seen the employee concerns about the Max, they might have pushed for training in flight simulators before pilots could fly the Max. Boeing recently reversed its longstanding and determined opposition to simulator training, which will add time and expense before airlines can use the plane.

Calhoun, a former General Electric and Nielsen executive who had been on Boeing's board since 2009, became CEO this month.

Fourth-quarter revenue tumbled to \$17.9 billion, far below Wall Street's forecast of \$21.7 billion, according to a FactSet survey of analysts.

The Chicago-based company booked another \$9.2 billion in estimated current and future extra costs for production delays, deliveries, and compensation for airlines that have canceled tens of thousands of Max flights. That raised Boeing's estimate of the total financial hit from the crisis to \$18.6 billion.

Analysts said the charge for airline compensation was anywhere from \$4 billion to \$6 billion less than most investors had feared.

For all the troubling news from the company, investors were happy that the damage wasn't worse. Shares rose 2.3% to \$323.74 in afternoon trading.

## **Pastor's fight against KKK becomes movie that may aid battle**

**By JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press**

LAURENS, S.C. (AP) — Not many years ago in a small, rural South Carolina town stood The Redneck Shop — a racist emporium and Ku Klux Klan museum housed in an old theater, where white supremacist neo-Nazis gave heil-Hitler salutes and flaunted swastikas and Rebel flags.

That building, once the property of the Klan, now belongs to a black preacher and committed foe of racism who fought the group for more than 20 years. The Rev. David Kennedy plans to transform it into a shrine of reconciliation.

How Kennedy, whose great-great-uncle was lynched in the community, got ownership of the old Echo Theater building from an ex-Klansman — a man who once contemplated murdering Kennedy — is the subject of a movie that could end up raising funds for that transformation.

"It symbolizes right now in the shape it's in — hatred," Kennedy said. "But we hope we can turn it into a building of love."

A decade ago, the white supremacist store in Laurens was a place where one of the few shirts sold without an overt racial slur said, "If I had known this was going to happen I would have picked my own cotton." The World Famous Ku Klux Klan Museum with its racist meeting place was in the back.

The KKK had put the title in the name of a trusted member, Michael Burden. Burden says other Klan members once suggested that he kill Kennedy, and he considered it. Kennedy didn't know that when he saw Burden, hungry, poor and full of hate, and took him to a buffet to fill his stomach, then to a hotel so his family wouldn't have to sleep on the street.

Burden's girlfriend at the time kept urging him to leave the Klan and in 1997, he did. He also bestowed ownership of the old theater building upon Kennedy for \$1,000.

But there was a twist. Under the agreement, John Howard, who owned The Redneck Shop, would be allowed to stay and run his store as long as he lived.

Howard abandoned the store years ago, ignoring maintenance. Duct work and piping were ripped from the walls. He died in 2017, giving Kennedy complete control over the building.

Kennedy estimates it needs at least \$500,000 in repairs that must be done carefully because of the theater's age and historic location. That seems impossible for the minister whose New Beginning Missionary Baptist Church congregation meets in a converted gun store several miles west of Laurens.

But a movie may provide a Hollywood ending.

The story of the unlikely friendship between Kennedy and Burden has been made into a film called "Burden," scheduled for national release Feb. 28. Starring actor Forest Whitaker as Kennedy, it was shown at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 49 of 50

101 Studios, which distributed it, has promised Kennedy it'll help repair and reopen the theater. They have created a website at <https://www.rehabhate.com/> to accept donations and tell more people about the project.

"The South cannot rid itself of its past. But we could rid ourselves of the Redneck Shop," Kennedy said.

The studio is getting companies to donate materials and time and is selling commemorative bricks that can be placed at the theater.

The movie's director, Andrew Heckler, first entered The Redneck Shop in the late 1990s after reading a short article about Kennedy's fight. He knew it had to be a movie and finished the screenplay in 2001, finally getting the green light from 101 Studios to make the film a few years ago.

"I knew this story would mean something to people. Three people in the middle of nowhere South Carolina did something that would be meaningful to all people," Heckler said. "There is a pathway for fighting hate. It's not easy. It's love, faith and not giving up."

Kennedy knows about not giving up. He protested when a South Carolina county refused to observe the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, and he helped lobby to remove the Confederate flag from the Statehouse dome. In his church office, he keeps a poster-size photo of a lynched black man swinging at the end of a rope. It is his great uncle, killed more than 100 years ago by a white mob in Laurens County.

Kennedy also has a photo of white people about 15 years ago in the back of the theater, wearing uniforms with a Nazi swastika and raising their arms and hands in a white power salute.

"Racism is a strange kind of organism. It is systemic. And it probably will not go away in our lifetimes," Kennedy said.

Burden and Kennedy remain friends, though not as close as they once were. Burden got married, turned his life around and now drives a truck across the country.

"When I changed my lifestyle I buried that guy," Burden said of his racist past.

Burden cautiously shares his story with those he thinks need to know that change is possible.

The movie named after him is a way to do that on a larger scale.

"I'm willing to go through this again," Burden said. "Am I happy about it? Some days yes, some days no."

Kennedy recently gave a tour of the theater to a few visiting reporters. Through the soft winter afternoon sunlight, faded two-story paintings of Nazi and U.S. flags can still be seen on a wall. A Confederate flag remains on the theater marquee.

The images are deteriorating, but they linger.

"Racism and hatred, they are both destructive and they have no future," Kennedy said. "But love, forgiveness and mercy will always have a future because they are constructive."

\_\_\_ Follow Jeffrey Collins on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/JSCollinsAP>

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 30, the 30th day of 2020. There are 336 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany.

On this date:

In 1649, England's King Charles I was executed for high treason.

In 1931, the Charles Chaplin feature "City Lights" had its world premiere in Los Angeles.

In 1945, during World War II, a Soviet submarine torpedoed the German ship MV Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic Sea with the loss of more than 9,000 lives, most of them war refugees; roughly 1,000 people survived. Adolf Hitler marked the 12th anniversary of his appointment as Germany's chancellor with his last public speech in which he called on Germans to keep resisting until victory.

In 1948, Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi, 78, was shot and killed in New Delhi by Nathuram Godse (neh-too-RAHM' gahd-SAY'), a Hindu extremist. (Godse and a co-conspirator were

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 212 ~ 50 of 50

later executed.)

In 1962, two members of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act were killed when their seven-person pyramid collapsed during a performance at the State Fair Coliseum in Detroit.

In 1968, the Tet Offensive began during the Vietnam War as Communist forces launched surprise attacks against South Vietnamese towns and cities; although the Communists were beaten back, the offensive was seen as a major setback for the U.S. and its allies.

In 1969, The Beatles staged an impromptu concert atop Apple headquarters in London; it was the group's last public performance.

In 1972, 13 Roman Catholic civil rights marchers were shot to death by British soldiers in Northern Ireland on what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

In 1974, President Richard Nixon delivered what would be his last State of the Union address; Nixon pledged to rein in rising prices without the "harsh medicine of recession" and establish a national health care plan that every American could afford.

In 1981, an estimated 2 million New Yorkers turned out for a ticker-tape parade honoring the American hostages freed from Iran.

In 1993, Los Angeles inaugurated its Metro Red Line, the city's first modern subway.

In 2005, Iraqis voted in their country's first free election in a half-century; President George W. Bush called the balloting a resounding success.

Ten years ago: China suspended military exchange visits with the United States in protest over \$6.4 billion in planned U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. (Those exchanges were reinstated in Jan. 2011.) Thousands of demonstrators from across Japan marched in central Tokyo to protest the U.S. military presence on Okinawa. Serena Williams ended Justine Henin's (EH'-nenz) hopes of a Grand Slam title in her return from retirement with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 victory in the Australian Open final.

Five years ago: Mitt Romney announced that he had put "considerable thought into making another run for president," but in the end, he decided to give other leaders in the Republican party a chance. Death Row Records co-founder Marion "Suge" Knight was arrested on suspicion of hitting and killing a man with his truck and fleeing the scene of the crash near Los Angeles. (Knight is serving a 28-year sentence after pleading no contest to voluntary manslaughter.)

One year ago: President Donald Trump lashed out at his intelligence chiefs after they told Congress that North Korea was unlikely to dismantle its nuclear arsenal and that the Iran nuclear deal was working; Trump tweeted, "Perhaps Intelligence should go back to school!" A California panel recommended that Charles Manson follower Leslie Van Houten be paroled after serving more than four decades in prison. (Gov. Gavin Newsom overruled the decision, marking the third time a governor had stopped Van Houten's release.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Gene Hackman is 90. Actress Vanessa Redgrave is 83. Country singer Jeanne Pruett is 83. Chess grandmaster Boris Spassky is 83. Country singer Norma Jean is 82. Former Vice President Dick Cheney is 79. Rhythm-and-blues musician William King (The Commodores) is 71. Singer Phil Collins is 69. Actor Charles S. Dutton is 69. World Golf Hall of Famer Curtis Strange is 65. Actress Ann Dowd is 64. Actress-comedian Brett Butler is 62. Singer Jody Watley is 61. Actor-filmmaker Dexter Scott King is 59. The King of Jordan, Abdullah II, is 58. Actor Wayne Wilderson (TV: "Veep") is 54. Actor Norbert Leo Butz is 53. The King of Spain, Felipe VI, is 52. Country singer Tammy Cochran is 48. Actor Christian Bale is 46. Rock musician Carl Broemel (My Morning Jacket) is 46. Actress Olivia Colman is 46. Actress-singer Lena Hall is 40. Pop-country singer-songwriter Josh Kelley is 40. Actor Wilmer Valderrama is 40. Actress Mary Hollis Inboden is 34. Actress Kylie Bunbury is 31. Actor Jake Thomas is 30. Actress Danielle Campbell is 25.

Thought for Today: "Courage is the art of being the only one who knows you're scared to death." — Harold Wilson, British prime minister (1916-1995).

Copyright 2020, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.