

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 1 of 71

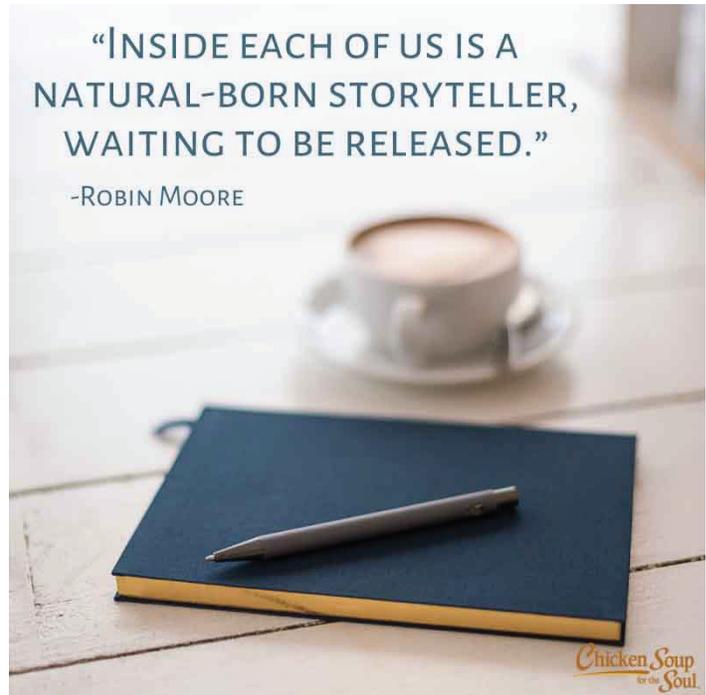
- [1- NEC-DAK Clash Game](#)
- [1- Sisseton Make-up Game](#)
- [1- Chamberlain Game Scheduled](#)
- [1- Today on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [2- Five grapplers place at NEC Tourney](#)
- [3- Bowling Scores](#)
- [4- THE U.K. CHURCH IS FACING AN HISTORIC TURNING POINT.](#)
- [5- Yesterday's Groton's Weather Graphs](#)
- [6- Upcoming Events](#)
- [7- Weather Pages](#)
- [10- Daily Devotional](#)
- [11- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [12- 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



Sisseton Make-up Game

The date has been set for the make-up boys game with Sisseton. It has been set for Friday, Feb. 28th. Times have yet to be determined. The games will be played at Sisseton.

It's Boys' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM

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

8:00 p.m.: Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 at Groton

Livestream Sponsors are Allied Climate Professionals,
Blocker Construction, Groton Dairy Queen, Jark Real Estate,
John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises, Tyson DeHoet Trucking

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

Five grapplers place at NEC Tourney

The Northeast Conference Wrestling Tournament was held Thursday in Britton with five Groton Area wrestlers placing.

Dragr Monson placed second at 113 pounds, Christian Ehresmann placed third at 106 pounds, Grady O'Neill placed third at 285 pounds, Caleb Furney placed fourth at 195 pounds and Lane Krueger placed fourth at 182 pounds,

106: Christian Ehresman (18-11) placed 3rd and scored 14.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresman (Groton Area) 18-11 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresman (Groton Area) 18-11 won by fall over Riley Steen (Sisseton) 3-18 (Fall 0:45)

Semifinal - Gannon Gilligan (Kingsbury County) 18-11 won by decision over Christian Ehresman (Groton Area) 18-11 (Dec 2-1)

Cons. Semi - Christian Ehresman (Groton Area) 18-11 won by decision over Jacob Johnson (Milbank) 10-17 (Dec 10-9)

3rd Place Match - Christian Ehresman (Groton Area) 18-11 won by decision over Jaxon Quail (Deuel) 14-12 (Dec 6-5)

113: Dragr Monson (23-6) placed 2nd and scored 20.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 23-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 23-6 won by fall over Tyan Johnson (Sisseton) 14-19 (Fall 4:44)

Semifinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 23-6 won by fall over Joshua Kannegieter (Clark/Willow Lake) 15-12 (Fall 0:47)

1st Place Match - Riley Whitley (Redfield Area) 4-0 won by decision over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 23-6 (Dec 8-4)

120: Aiden Heathcote (5-10) scored 1.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Elliot Bratland (Clark/Willow Lake) 9-13 won by fall over Aiden Heathcote (Groton Area) 5-10 (Fall 1:12)

Cons. Round 1 - Aiden Heathcote (Groton Area) 5-10 won by decision over Gavin Witt (Webster Area) 2-9 (Dec 6-3)

Cons. Semi - Brayden Christensen (Milbank) 15-12 won by fall over Aiden Heathcote (Groton Area) 5-10 (Fall 0:13)

126: Brevin Fliehs (2-8) .

Quarterfinal - Brock Gisselbeck (Hamlin) 13-16 won by fall over Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 2-8 (Fall 5:18)

Cons. Round 1 - Matt Mork (Webster Area) 6-15 won by fall over Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 2-8 (Fall 1:47)

145: Cole Bisbee (3-16) .

Champ. Round 1 - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 3-16 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Mason Fey (Redfield Area) 29-2 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 3-16 (Fall 0:47)

Cons. Round 2 - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 3-16 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Tucker Anderson (Kingsbury County) 14-15 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 3-16 (Fall 2:32)

182: Lane Krueger (14-12) placed 4th and scored 7.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 14-12 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Sean Domke (Redfield Area) 23-9 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 14-12 (Fall 1:14)

Cons. Semi - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 14-12 won by fall over Miles Wyman (Deuel) 0-2 (Fall 0:34)

3rd Place Match - Sam Granthan (Hamlin) 13-11 won by decision over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 14-12 (Dec 5-1)

195: Caleb Furney (2-2) placed 4th and scored 8.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 2-2 won by fall over Mason Gray (Sisseton) 2-16 (Fall 1:26)

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 3 of 71

Semifinal - Brodie Holtquist (Milbank) 16-3 won by fall over Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 2-2 (Fall 1:41)
Cons. Semi - Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 2-2 received a bye () (Bye)
3rd Place Match - Connor Appel (Redfield Area) 12-10 won by fall over Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 2-2 (Fall 3:34)

285: Grady O`Neill (17-12) placed 3rd and scored 16.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 17-12 won by fall over James Mickey (Hamlin) 5-15 (Fall 1:04)
Semifinal - Avery Nichols (Clark/Willow Lake) 12-12 won by fall over Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 17-12 (Fall 2:45)

Cons. Semi - Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 17-12 won by fall over Landon Novy (Milbank) 3-4 (Fall 0:47)
3rd Place Match - Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 17-12 won by fall over Gavin Nichols (Redfield Area) 16-11 (Fall 2:50)

Groton Coffee Cup League

Jan. 28 Team Standings: Biker Chix 17, Ten Pins 11, Kens 7, James Valley 5

High Games: Vickie Kramp 182, Mayme Baker 179, Nancy Radke 154.

High Series: Vickie Kramp 466, Mayme Baker 417, Nancy Radke 409.

Conde National League

Jan. 20 Team Standings: Cubs 14, Giants 14, Tigers 9, Braves 9, Pirates 7, Mets 7.

Men's High Games: Lance Frohling 196, Ryan Bethke 180, Russ Bethke 180, Topper Tastad 172.

Men's High Series: Lance Frohling 497, Russ Bethke 492, Ryan Bethke 475.

Women's High Games: Mary Larson 184, Vickie Kramp 182, Nancy Radke 174.

Women's High Series: Nancy Radke 485, Vickie Kramp 475, Mary Larson 463.

Jan. 27 Team Standings: Cubs 17, Giants 15, Braves 11, Tigers 10, Mets 10, Pirates 9.

Men's High Games: Russ Bethke 193, 178; Lance Frohling 192; Ryan Bethke 169.

Men's High Series: Russ Bethke 506, Ryan Bethke 455, Lance Frohling 446.

Women's High Games: Mary Larson 168, Mayme Baker 164, Sandy Hoops 162.

Women's High Series: Mary Larson 467, Mayme Baker 438, Nancy Radke 425.

Groton Prairie Mixed

Jan. 16 Team Standings: Shih Tzus 36 ½, Foxes 35, Cheetahs 33, Jackelopes 32, Coyotes 22 ½, Chipmunks 21

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 257, Roger Colestock 199, Brad Larson 197

Women's High Games: Vicki Walter 171, 168, 162, Sue Stanley 164, Nicole Kassube 161, Darci Spanier 161

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 638, Roger Colestock 548, Roger Spanier 526

Women's High Series: Vicki Walter 501, Darci Spanier 460, Nicole Kassube 441

Jan. 23 Team Standings: Shih Tzus 50 ½, Jackelopes 46, Foxes 44, Cheetahs 44, Coyotes 28 ½, Chipmunks 27

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 225, Roger Spanier 206, 200, 199, Randy Stanley 197

Women's High Games: Darci Spanier 199, Nicole Kassube 163, Nancy Radke 157

Men's High Series: Roger Spanier 605, Brad Waage 586, Mike Siegler 548

Women's High Series: Darci Spanier 452, Nicole Kassube 449, Sue Stanley 418

Jan. 30 Team Standings: Jackelopes 58, Foxes 58, Shih Tzus 56 ½, Cheetahs 52, Coyotes 44 ½, Chipmunks 31

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 206, 191, Randy Stanley 187, Roger Colestock 181

Women's High Games: Karen Spanier 183, Nancy Radke 160, 166, Sue Stanley 166

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 572, Roger Colestock 501, Doug Jorgensen 473

Women's High Series: Nancy Radke 498, Sue Stanley 457, Karen Spanier 456

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 4 of 71

I find it interesting that we are facing a conflict between man's desires and God's teachings. I came across this email from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

THE U.K. CHURCH IS FACING AN HISTORIC TURNING POINT.

Dear Friend,

For the last two years we have been preparing to go to the United Kingdom and take the Gospel to eight different cities starting in Scotland, going down to Wales, and finishing up in London. As we move closer to these events in late May and June, we are experiencing opposition from LGBTQ activists who want to stop this Gospel work.

This small but vocal minority is pressuring venues to back out of our contracts because I have said that God defines homosexuality as sin. Several venues have already told us that they are canceling.

Much prayer and effort has been put into this, and hundreds of churches across the U.K. are partnering in this tour. This is spiritual warfare. The enemy does not want the Gospel proclaimed.

Will you pray with us that God will keep the doors open to preach the Good News across the U.K. this spring? The Bible says "the prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working" (James 5:16, ESV). I believe this is a defining moment for the church in the U.K., and Jesus Christ is the only hope for change.

You and I have been called for such a moment as this. Please join me in praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ there, that God will remove obstacles to this Gospel work, and that He will prepare the hearts of people across the nation to hear and respond to His message this spring.

Thank you for standing faithfully for Jesus Christ.

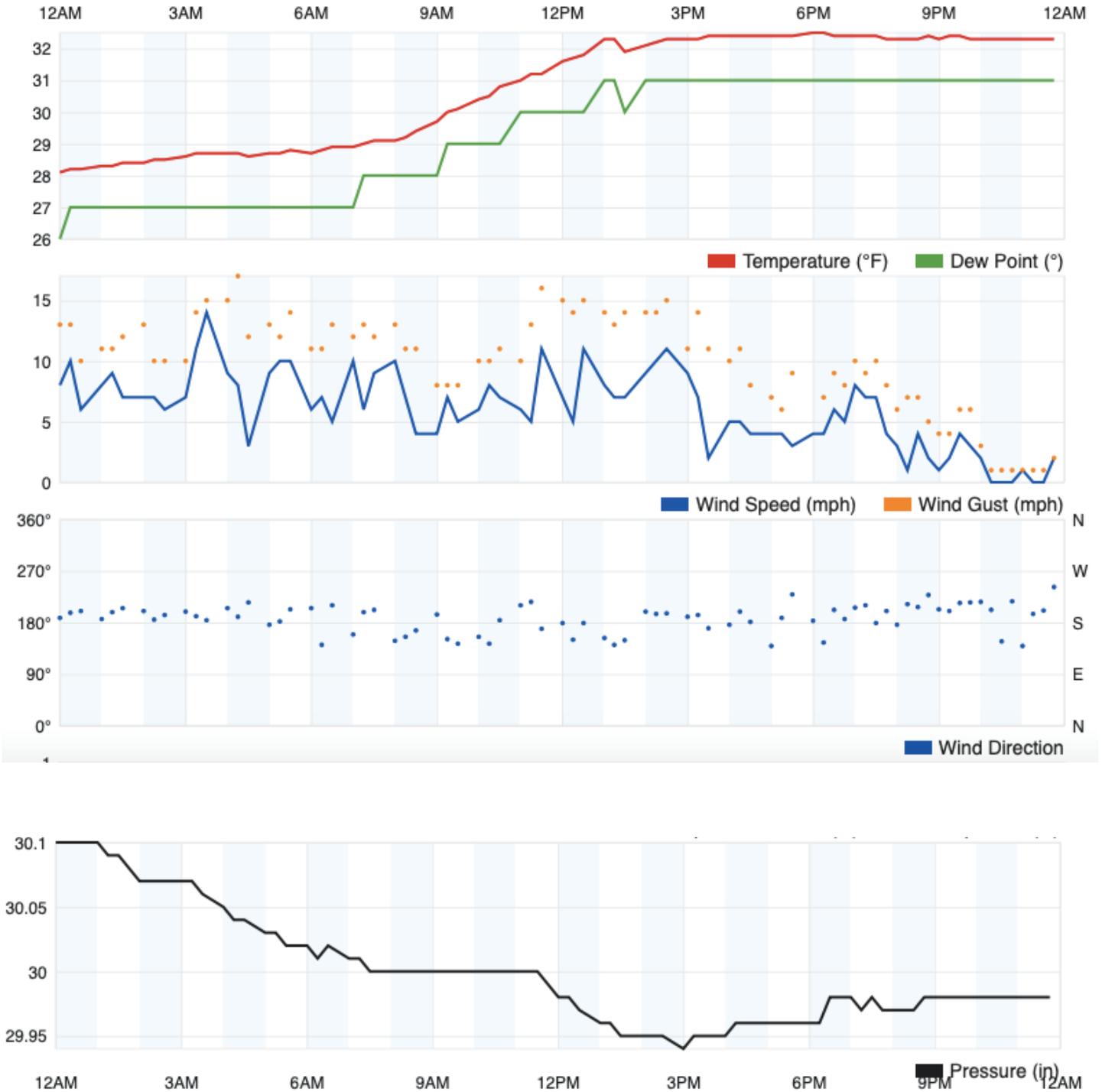
May God richly bless you,

Franklin Graham

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 5 of 71

Yesterday's Groton's Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 6 of 71

Upcoming Events

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

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 7 of 71

Today

Tonight

Saturday

Saturday Night

Sunday



Patchy Fog then Mostly Cloudy

High: 30 °F



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 23 °F



Partly Sunny

High: 41 °F



Partly Cloudy

Low: 35 °F



Mostly Cloudy

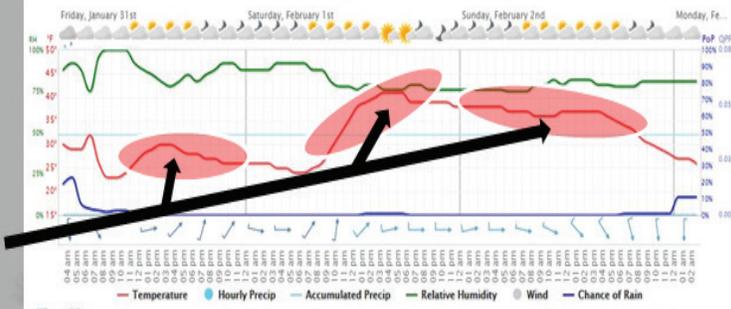
High: 40 °F

Black Arrows And Red Hatched Areas Highlight Where Temperatures Warm Into The 30s, 40s And 50s Throughout The Region Starting Today And Continuing Through Sunday Morning

First Big Warmup this weekend!

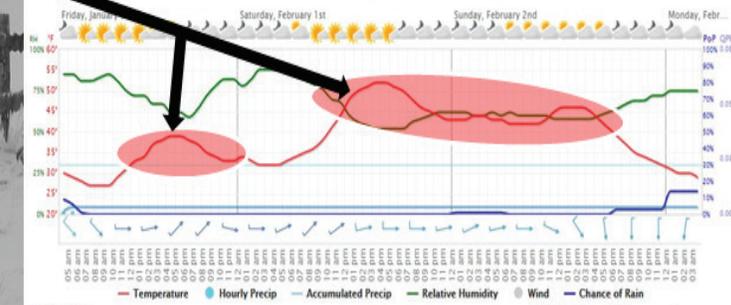
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 1/31/2020 5:39 AM Central

72 Hour Forecast Meteogram - Aberdeen, South Dakota



NWS Aberdeen

72 Hour Forecast Meteogram - Pierre, South Dakota



NWS Aberdeen

The first noteworthy warm-up of 2020 is upon us. Starting today, markedly warmer air will begin working into the northern plains from the west. The warmth is expected to spread all the way over into west central Minnesota by Saturday evening. The warmer air will help to scour out all the fog, drizzle and cloudiness that has been hanging around since last Friday.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 8 of 71

Today in Weather History

January 31, 1969: Minnesota experienced many winter storms throughout the month of 1969 where several people had died from heart attacks and auto accidents. Many roads were blocked or iced over several times during the month. Considerable snow during the month of January along with frequent periods of strong winds resulted in many days of blowing and drifting snow across northeast South Dakota. There were also many days with freezing rain. The most significant icing occurred on the 22nd and the 27th. There were numerous days where the traffic was at a standstill due to blocked roads and closed airports. Many school closings occurred throughout the month with many activities cancelled. Many rural roads went long periods without being opened resulting in hardships for farmers. Days of blowing snow were the 8th, 19th, 22nd, 23th, 24th, 26th, 27th, and 31st. Days of freezing rain were the 5th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and the 22nd.

1911: Tamarack, California was without snow the first eight days of the month, but by the end of January, they had been buried under 390 inches of snow, a record monthly total for the United States. By March 11, 1911, Tamarack had a record snow depth of 451 inches.

1979: A winter storm that started on the previous day and ended on this day spread 2 to 4 inches of rainfall in 24 hours over much of coastal Southern California, and two inches of snow in Palm Springs. Snow fell heavily in Palm Springs and 8 inches fell at Lancaster. All major interstates into Los Angeles were closed. Snow drifts shut down Interstate 10 on both sides of Palm Springs, isolating the city.

1989: The barometric pressure at Norway, Alaska reached 31.85 inches (1078.4 mb) establishing an all-time record for the North American Continent. The temperature at the time of the record was about 46 degrees below zero. Severe arctic cold began to invade the north central U.S. The temperature at Grand Fall, Montana plunged 85 degrees in 36 hours. Valentine, Nebraska plummeted from a record high of 70 degrees to zero in just nine hours. Northwest winds gusted to 86 mph at Lander WY, and wind chill readings of 80 degrees below zero were reported in Montana. Sixty-four cities in the central U.S. reported record highs for the date as readings reached the 60s in Michigan and the 80s in Kansas.

1911 - Tamarack, CA, was without snow the first eight days of the month, but by the end of January had been buried under 390 inches of snow, a record monthly total for the U.S. (The Weather Channel)

1949 - The temperature at San Antonio, TX, plunged to a record low of one degree below zero. Helena MT reached 42 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

1966 - A blizzard struck the northeastern U.S. When the storm came to an end, twenty inches of snow covered the ground at Washington D.C. (David Ludlum)

1982 - A snowstorm struck Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. Twenty-five inches of snow at Greenville IL, located east of Saint Louis, paralyzed the community. The storm left 4000 motorists stranded for two days. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A storm in the Pacific Northwest produced wind gusts to 85 mph in Oregon, and nearly two inches of rain in twelve hours in the Puget Sound area of Washington State. Ten inches of snow at Stampede Pass WA brought their total snow cover to 84 inches. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty-one cities in the central and northeastern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date, with many occurring during the early morning hours. Temperatures in western New York State reached the 60s early in the day. Strong northerly winds in the north central U.S. produced wind chill readings as cold as 60 degrees below zero in North Dakota. (National Weather Summary)

1989 - The barometric pressure at Norway, AK, reached 31.85 inches (1078.4 mb) establishing an all-time record for the North American Continent. The temperature at the time of the record was about 46 degrees below zero (The Weather Channel). Severe arctic cold began to invade the north central U.S. The temperature at Great Falls MT plunged 85 degrees in 36 hours. Valentine NE plummeted from a record high of 70 degrees to zero in just nine hours. Northwest winds gusted to 86 mph at Lander WY, and wind chill readings of 80 degrees below zero were reported in Montana. Sixty-four cities in the central U.S. reported record highs for the date as readings reached the 60s in Michigan and the 80s in Kansas. (National

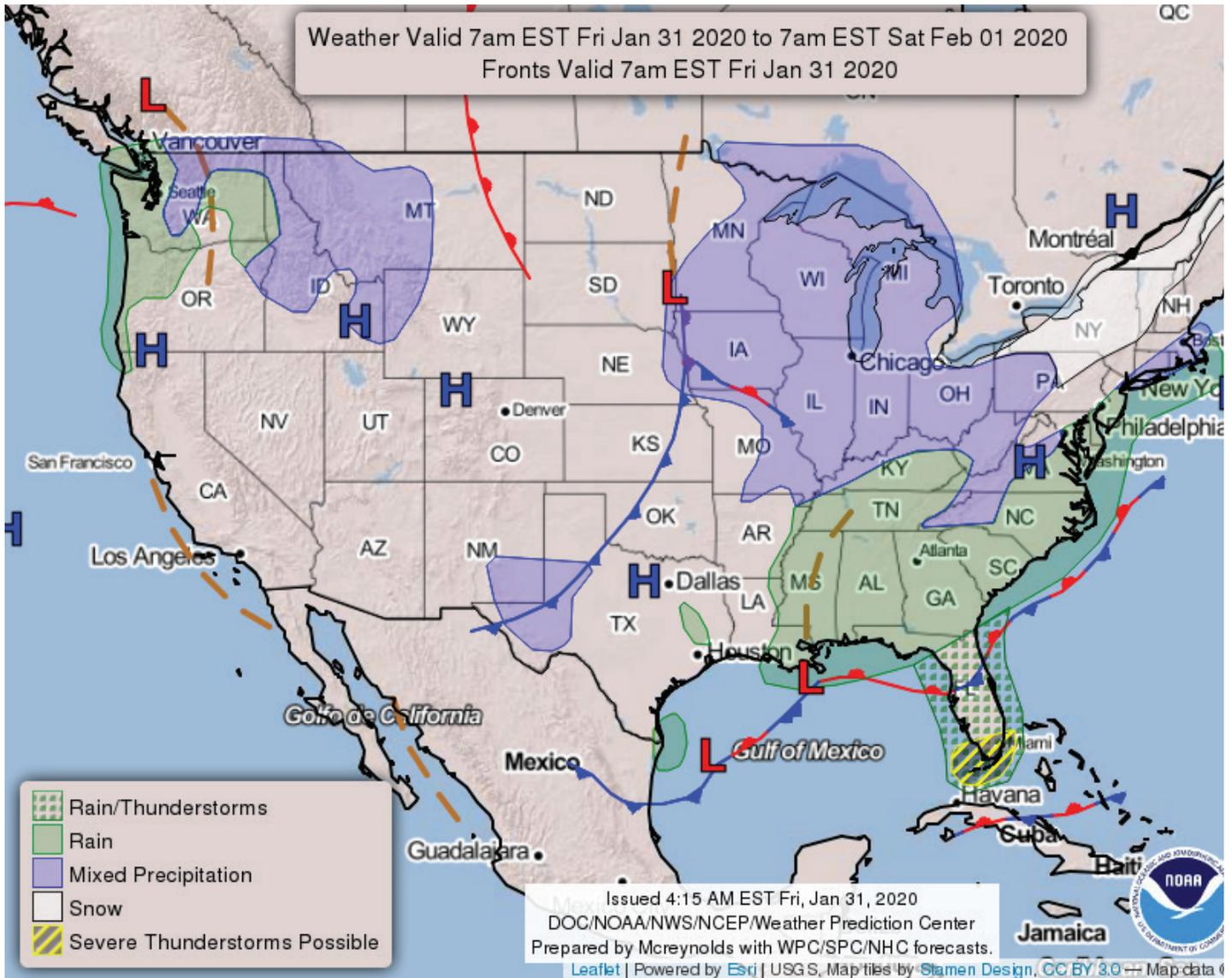
Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 9 of 71

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 32 °F at 2:50 PM
Low Temp: 28 °F at 12:00 AM
Wind: 17 mph at 4:13 AM
Precip:

Record High: 51° in 1924
Record Low: -32° in 1996
Average High: 24°F
Average Low: 2°F
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.46
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.35
Average Precip to date: 0.46
Precip Year to Date: 0.35
Sunset Tonight: 5:39 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:55 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 10 of 71



WHERE THEY BELONG

Once I asked an appliance repairman to come to church with me. "No," he responded. "The church is full of hypocrites."

"Great!" I responded. The man was startled. Continuing, I said, "That's exactly where they belong. Let's join them. I'm sure they won't mind."

If I understand it correctly, a hypocrite is someone who says one thing and does another. Or as a friend once said to me, "A hypocrite is a person who does not walk their talk. They profess what they do not possess."

Many who do not want to attend church say the reason they refuse to do so is because the church is full of hypocrites. For as long as I can remember that has been a frequent excuse for many. As I see it, it is a great reason for them to attend! They already know the difference between the saved and the unsaved. The saved are expected to behave like Jesus and the unsaved person, who says he sees hypocrisy in Christians, already knows what is expected of him if he turns his life over to God for salvation.

We need to extend a warm welcome to those who use "the hypocrite excuse" as a reason not to attend church. Jesus said that He came to call sinners to be saved. Those who believe that they are already good enough will have a difficult time admitting they are sinners. But the hypocrite already knows he is "one!"

Prayer: Lord, help me to live a life that will be an example, not an excuse, for people to seek You. May I live my life consistent with the example of Your Son, Jesus! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 11 of 71

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)

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 12 of 71

News from the  Associated Press

Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Arlington 64, Deubrook 52
Castlewood 53, Hamlin 45
Colman-Egan 69, Estelline/Hendricks 45
Crow Creek 93, Stanley County 59
DeSmet 64, Elkton-Lake Benton 41
Dell Rapids 64, Vermillion 52
Elk Point-Jefferson 62, Tri-Valley 56
Ethan 54, Mitchell Christian 27
Freeman Academy/Marion 52, Irene-Wakonda 41
Harding County 82, Belle Fourche 79
Hill City 54, Wall 41
Lemmon 70, McIntosh 42
Lennox 56, Parkston 36
Leola/Frederick 71, Faulkton 58
Madison 70, McCook Central/Montrose 43
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 64, James Valley Christian 31
Potter County 58, North Central Co-Op 42
Sioux Falls Christian 84, Dakota Valley 53
Sioux Falls Washington 48, Sioux Falls Lincoln 46
Sisseton 48, Deuel 47
St. Thomas More 61, Sturgis Brown 43
Sully Buttes 56, Hitchcock-Tulare 27
Viborg-Hurley 81, Centerville 43
Wagner 78, Scotland 39
Webster 49, Aberdeen Roncalli 47
Yankton 47, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 46
Dakota Oyate Challenge=
First Round=
Flandreau Indian 47, Crazy Horse 37
Marty Indian 76, Tiospaye Topa 50
Omaha Nation, Neb. 79, Lower Brule 70
Tiospa Zina Tribal 63, Takini 33

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Alcester-Hudson 52, Dell Rapids St. Mary 41
Boyd County, Neb. 60, Burke 56, OT
Clark/Willow Lake 66, Great Plains Lutheran 39
Dakota Valley 51, Sioux Falls Christian 43
Douglas 57, Custer 45
Ethan 48, Mitchell Christian 12
Faith 60, Herreid/Selby Area 36
Faulkton 55, Leola/Frederick 17
Florence/Henry 43, Sisseton 39
Hamlin 37, Castlewood 32

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 13 of 71

Highmore-Harrold 47, Wolsey-Wessington 38
Hitchcock-Tulare 49, Sully Buttes 39
Irene-Wakonda 52, Freeman Academy/Marion 23
James Valley Christian 50, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 35
Langford 41, Warner 28
New England, N.D. 50, Harding County 46
Potter County 61, North Central Co-Op 41
Rapid City Christian 46, Hot Springs 32
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 49, Wessington Springs 23
Sioux Falls Lincoln 63, Sioux Falls Washington 55
St. Thomas More 64, Sturgis Brown 41
Todd County 56, Pine Ridge 51
Tri-Valley 35, Elk Point-Jefferson 25
Vermillion 51, Dell Rapids 29
Viborg-Hurley 53, Centerville 41
Wagner 57, Scotland 48
Big East Conference Tournament=
First Round=
Beresford 46, Sioux Valley 40
Flandreau 65, Baltic 29
Garretson 60, Chester 24
Dakota Oyate Challenge=
First Round=
Flandreau Indian 93, Tiospaye Topa 23
Lower Brule 69, Crazy Horse 44
Marty Indian 54, Takini 17
Tiospa Zina Tribal 48, Omaha Nation, Neb. 46

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

Umude, Hagedorn lift South Dakota past Denver 93-87

DENVER, Colo. (AP) — Stanley Umude scored 23 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for his fifth double-double of the season, and South Dakota defeated Denver 93-87 on Thursday night.

Tyler Hagedorn added 20 points, shooting 4-for-5 from 3-point distance for the Coyotes, who have won four in a row.

Triston Simpson added 17 points, making 8-of-9 at the foul line, for South Dakota (15-8, 6-3 Summit League) while Tyler Peterson added 16 points, going 8-for-12 at the line. The Coyotes made 10 of 12 free throws in the final 1:17 to close out the game after Denver came as close as five twice in the final minute.

The teams combined for 55 fouls, with South Dakota making 27-for-37 at the line and Denver 24-for-34.

Ade Murkey had 28 points and six rebounds for the Pioneers (5-18, 1-8). Jase Townsend added 16 points and eight rebounds. Roscoe Eastmond had 15 points and four assists.

The Coyotes stayed among the top four teams in the Summit League. Denver has lost three straight.

South Dakota plays Omaha on the road on Sunday. Denver takes on Oral Roberts on the road on Saturday.

For more AP college basketball coverage: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and http://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Elements of this story were generated by Automated Insights, <http://www.automatedinsights.com/ap>, using data from STATS LLC, <https://www.stats.com>

Noem opposes Native American school proposal

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Proponents of creating schools in South Dakota that focus on teaching Native American language and culture have two weeks to rework their proposal, after Gov. Kristi Noem opposed the initiative.

A Senate committee on Thursday deferred a bill that would create Oceti Sakowin schools that teach Lakota, Dakota and Nakota language and culture. Several teachers are trying to open schools in Native American communities that would attempt to address educational achievement gaps between Native American students and the state's other students.

"I see a system that isn't working and we're looking for something that is working," said Sage Fast Dog, an educator who is planning to open a school on the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

Fast Dog said that only 5% of students in his community graduate from college.

Parents testified about how children had struggled with their identity after facing teachers and schoolmates who were insensitive to the culture of the Oceti Sakowin, which is commonly known as Sioux. They said the schools would be modeled after Native American Community Academy Schools in New Mexico and would instill a sense of identity in students.

They also argued that the money invested in education now would pay dividends in the future by giving students the education they need to land jobs that keep them off of expensive social programs.

Several representatives from Noem's office testified in opposition, saying that the current school system can incorporate cultural programs and that her office is working to improve education in Native American communities.

Noem said that her concerns were with the language in the bill and that she would continue to work with tribal members to improve education in those areas. She said she discussed the proposal with tribal leaders just before the session.

But Crow Creek Sioux Tribe Chairman Lester Thompson said that after proposing the schools to Noem before the session he didn't hear from the governor's office until Wednesday evening, when he was told she would oppose it.

"Maybe we're not as high as a priority as it's being stated," Thompson said.

Noem said she supported the spirit of the initiative but could not support the legislation without looking at the details. The bill was introduced last week.

Education Secretary Ben Jones said he would be working with the proponents in the coming weeks. He said there were "fundamental flaws in the bill," but supported new initiatives that educate based on students' culture and identity.

Tiffany Sanderson, an advisor to the governor, pointed to Spanish-immersion schools as an example of alternative curricula that are allowed.

Several other education groups opposed the bill, saying the proposal would take money away from public schools and lacked specifics on who would be overseeing the schools.

Senate Minority Leader Troy Heinert, a Democrat from Mission, proposed an amendment to the bill that changed the term "charter" to "community-based" schools. He said that striking the word "charter" from the proposal may make it more palatable to legislators.

The Senate committee gave proponents two weeks to work with the governor's office to present amendments to the bill.

Sen. V.J. Smith, a Brookings Republican, said he hoped the governor's office would use the time to work with people who want to start the schools.

South Dakota settles American Indian discrimination lawsuit

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The state of South Dakota has agreed to pay \$350,000 to settle a lawsuit alleging the state Department of Social Services discriminated against American Indian job applicants.

The U.S. Department of Justice brought the lawsuit in 2015 following a discrimination complaint by Cedric

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 15 of 71

Goodman. Goodman was informed in December 2010 that he had not been selected for an employment specialist position that the Department of Social Services had posted for its Pine Ridge office. The specialist positions tended to be higher paying jobs offered by the department.

Goodman met the qualifications, which included an extensive work history and a bachelor's degree in a related field as well as credits toward a master's degree. He was one of six applicants interviewed for the position, five of whom were Native American. But on Dec. 12, 2010, the job posting was canceled and none of those interviewed were offered the job.

The next day, a new vacancy for an employment specialist was posted. The department hired a white woman for the job who had just graduated from college and whose work history had not been in a related field, according to the DOJ complaint.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission turned the case over to the Justice Department after failing to negotiate a resolution of Goodman's complaint.

In its lawsuit, the Justice Department alleged that between Jan. 1, 2010, and Jan. 31, 2012, the department posted 18 specialist positions. The suit alleged that 40% of the applicants were Native Americans, but only one was hired while 11 whites were hired. Some of the vacancies went unfilled and were closed despite qualified Native American applicants, the lawsuit alleged.

As part of the settlement filed Wednesday, the Department of Social Services agreed to turn over nearly five years of hiring data for specialist positions at the department's Pine Ridge office. The department did not admit wrongdoing.

Of the state's payment, the Argus Leader reports \$10,000 will go to the estate of Goodman, who died last year. The rest of the money will be distributed to 60 American Indians who applied but did not receive employment as a specialist between 2007 and 2013. Those applicants will need to apply, and the money will be distributed equally among those who apply.

Governor to unveil agriculture bill on Friday

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem on Thursday teased a bill that she said will expand opportunities in agriculture in the state.

The Republican governor said she would unveil the legislation at the Black Hills Stock Show in Rapid City on Friday but didn't go into details in a weekly press conference.

She also praised the signing of the new North American trade agreement and said she expected it to boost South Dakota's agricultural exports.

The state's agricultural economy has suffered due to extreme weather and international trade disruptions. The state had the most unplanted acres in the country last year after many parts of the state flooded.

Relatives identify victim of fatal Aberdeen shooting

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Relatives have identified the victim of a weekend fatal shooting in Aberdeen and say they're frustrated that the assailant hasn't been arrested.

Family members say they are devastated by the death of 25-year-old Zach Newell, of Warner.

His great-uncle, Randy Myron, describes Newell as thoughtful and a good kid.

"He was loved by the family," Myron said. "Everyone is devastated by this. It's really hard on the family."

Myron tells Aberdeen American News Newell was shot five times, once in the leg and four times in the chest after he apparently had been kicked out of a house party.

Myron said Newell was attempting to go back inside to retrieve some personal property when he was shot.

Brown County State's Attorney Chris White says a suspect has been identified, but some test results are needed before charges are filed.

White has declined to comment on the circumstances surrounding the shooting.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 16 of 71

Parents sue after daughter sickened in Sisseton pool

SISSETON, S.D. (AP) — Two North Dakota parents are suing the City of Sisseton and others, claiming their young daughter got sick after swimming in the local pool and suffered permanent kidney damage.

A federal lawsuit filed by Christopher and Katie Cameron of West Fargo says the 8-year-old girl was diagnosed with E.coli at the Sanford Fargo Medical Center a few days after swimming in the Sisseton pool last July.

The lawsuit claims at least four other children were sickened as well, KELO-TV reported.

The South Dakota Department of Health says a definitive source of the illness was not identified.

The Camerons, who are also suing the Sisseton Swimming Pool Association and its director, David Staub, are asking for damages exceeding \$75,000.

Staub said the pool underwent standard water testing procedures and there were no findings of contaminated water.

Polaris will close Spearfish plant, moving work to Iowa

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Polaris Industries plans to close its plant in western South Dakota and move the work to Iowa.

The plant in Spearfish specializes in painting parts for Indian Motorcycle. The Minneapolis-based Polaris will consolidate the paint operations in Spirit Lake.

"Spirit Lake is the home of Indian Motorcycle and centralizing our painting processes within that facility drives efficiencies, cuts down on logistics costs and lead times, and enables us to better serve our customers," said Polaris spokeswoman Jessica Rogers.

The company said the 33 Spearfish employees will have the opportunity to transfer to available positions at other Polaris facilities, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Kory Menken, executive director of the Spearfish Economic Development Corporation, called the impending shutdown of the Spearfish plant a blow to the community, but he also hoped the employees would be able to find new jobs in the area.

The closure is expected to be complete by mid-February.

Trump trial could end soon; Alexander says no to witnesses

By LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee will oppose calling more witnesses in President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, all but dashing Democratic efforts to hear more testimony and boosting odds the Senate will vote to acquit Trump as early as Friday.

A vote on witnesses, expected Friday, could lead to an abrupt end and assured acquittal in only the third presidential impeachment trial in American history. Trump was pressing for action in time for his State of the Union address, and that now seems likely. As the Senate adjourned late Thursday, it set the date for Tuesday night's speech.

Despite the Democrats' singular, sometimes-passionate focus on witnesses after revelations from John Bolton, the former national security adviser, the numbers are now falling short. It would take four Republicans to break with the 53-seat majority and join with all Democrats to demand more testimony.

Chief Justice John Roberts, in the rare role presiding over the impeachment trial, could break a tie, but that seems unlikely.

Alexander said in a statement there was "no need for more evidence," giving the Trump team the likelihood of a Senate vote in its direction.

Trump was impeached by House last month on charges that he abused his power like no other president, jeopardizing Ukraine and U.S.-Ukraine relations. Democrats say Trump asked the vulnerable ally to investigate Joe Biden and debunked theories of 2016 election interference, temporarily halting American security aid to the country as it battled Russia at its border. The second article of impeachment says

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 17 of 71

Trump then obstructed the House probe in a way that threatened the nation's three-branch system of checks and balances.

Before Alexander's statement, Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine said late Thursday she would vote to allow witnesses in the impeachment trial, briefly raising Democrats' hopes for a breakthrough.

But Alexander minutes later said that "there is no need for more evidence to prove something that has already been proven and that does not meet the U.S. Constitution's high bar for an impeachable offense."

"It was inappropriate for the president to ask a foreign leader to investigate his political opponent and to withhold United States aid to encourage that investigation," Alexander said. But, he added, "the Constitution does not give the Senate the power to remove the president from office and ban him from this year's ballot simply for actions that are inappropriate."

Collins, Alexander and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska were playing an outsized role in the final hours of debate with pointed questions. Another Republican senator, Mitt Romney of Utah, has made clear he will vote for witnesses.

Murkowski is expected to announce her decision on Friday, ahead of voting.

Democrats built pressure on senators for testimony, but Trump's lawyers argued it would take too long as they sped forward, even after Bolton's potential eyewitness account to Trump's actions detailed in a forthcoming book brought uncertainty.

Bolton's forthcoming book contends he personally heard Trump say he wanted military aid withheld from Ukraine until it agreed to investigate the Bidens. Trump denies saying such a thing.

Thursday's testimony included soaring pleas to the senators-as-jurors who will decide Trump's fate, to either stop a president who Democrats say has tried to cheat in the upcoming election and will again, or to shut down impeachment proceedings that Republicans insist were never more than a partisan attack.

"Let's give the country a trial they can be proud of," said Rep. Adam Schiff, the lead prosecutor for House Democrats. He offered to take just one week for depositions of new witnesses, sparking new discussions.

Trump attorney Eric Herschmann declared the Democrats are only prosecuting the president because they can't beat him in 2020.

"We trust the American people to decide who should be our president," Herschmann said. "Enough is Enough. Stop all of this."

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was toiling to keep Friday's vote on schedule even as the trial was unearthing fresh evidence from Bolton's new book and raising alarms among Democrats and some Republicans about a Trump attorney's controversial defense.

In a day-after tweet, Trump attorney Alan Dershowitz, complained about the portrayal of his Wednesday night testimony when he said a president is essentially immune from impeachment if he believes his actions to be in the "national interest."

That idea frustrated some inside the White House, who felt Dershowitz's claim was unnecessary and inflammatory — irking senators with a controversial claim of vast executive powers. But those officials left it to Dershowitz to back away, wary that any public White House retreat would be viewed poorly by the president.

"I said nothing like that," the retired professor tweeted Thursday.

His words Wednesday night: "Every public official that I know believes that his election is in the public interest. And if a president does something which he believes will help him get elected is in the public interest, that cannot be the kind of quid pro quo that results in impeachment."

The president has argued repeatedly that his dealings with Ukraine have been "perfect."

Asked about it as one of the first questions Thursday, Democrat Schiff, said, "Have we learned nothing in the last half century?"

Schiff drew on the lessons of the Nixon era to warn of a "normalization of lawlessness" in the Trump presidency.

Republicans Collins, Romney and Murkowski all have expressed interest in hearing from Bolton and the others in the trial and captivated attention during the final hours of questions.

Murkowski drew a reaction when she asked simply: "Why should this body not call Ambassador Bolton?"

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 18 of 71

Alexander, who was influenced by the late Howard Baker — who broke with his party over Richard Nixon — also captured attention when he questioned partisanship in the proceedings thus far.

In response to Alexander and others, Democrat Rep. Zoe Lofgren of California, a congressional staffer during Watergate and now a House prosecutor, told the senators that the Nixon impeachment also started as a partisan inquiry before a bipartisan consensus emerged. She told them while the House acted on party lines against Trump, the Senate — “the greatest deliberative body on the planet” — has a new opportunity.

Alexander is also close allies with McConnell, and after his question Thursday night he consulted with a key staff aide to the leader. As the senators broke for dinner, Alexander and Murkowski met privately.

Senators dispatched more than 100 queries over two days. The questions came from the parties’ leaders, the senators running for the Democratic nomination against Trump and even bipartisan coalitions from both sides of the aisle.

Trump’s lawyers focused some of their time Thursday refloating allegations against Biden and his son, Hunter Biden, who served on the board of a gas company in Ukraine while his father was vice president. Rep. Val Demings, D-Fla., one of the managers, said the Bidens have little to tell the Senate about Trump’s efforts to “shake down” Ukraine for his campaign.

The White House has blocked its officials from testifying in the proceedings and objected that there is “significant amounts of classified information” in the manuscript. Bolton resigned last September — Trump says he was fired — and he and his attorney have insisted the book does not contain any classified information.

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

Top commander sees increased Iran threat in Afghanistan

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — There has been an increase in Iranian activity in Afghanistan that poses a risk to American and coalition troops there, a senior U.S. commander said, as the threat from Tehran continues to churn across the Middle East.

Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, the top U.S. commander for the Middle East made an unannounced visit to Afghanistan this week. He told reporters traveling with him that he is seeing a “worrisome trend,” of Iranian malign interference.

“Iran has always sort of dabbled a little bit in Afghanistan, but they see perhaps an opportunity to get after us and the coalition here through their proxies,” McKenzie said. “So, we are very concerned about that here as we go forward.”

McKenzie’s warnings come just weeks after Iran launched as many as two dozen ballistic missiles at two bases in Iraq where American forces are stationed. No one was killed, but several dozen U.S. troops received traumatic brain injuries. The attack was in retribution for a U.S. drone strike in Iraq that killed Qassem Soleimani, a top Iranian Quds Force general.

Iran has long provided money, support and weapons to Shiite militias in Afghanistan. As the war in Syria heated up in recent years, Iran ran an extensive drive to bring in Shiites from Afghanistan and other parts of the region to help support President Bashar Assad. And as that war has wound down, thousands have returned home. Afghan officials have expressed concerns that Iran is still backing and organizing the militia members and that they could pose a threat to troops, residents and the government.

McKenzie, who left Afghanistan Friday after a three-day visit, said the coalition is working with the Afghan government to monitor the situation and prevent any problems.

Meanwhile, the coalition’s combat campaign against the Taliban also rages on, even as the U.S. works to hammer out a peace agreement with the insurgent group. The U.S. and the Taliban are negotiating a reduction in hostilities or a cease-fire to allow the signing of a peace agreement that would open the way to a broader post-war deal for Afghans and allow for the withdrawal of most, if not all, U.S. and coalition

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 19 of 71

forces.

But as Zalmay Khalilzad, Washington's envoy for talks with the insurgents, works to broker a deal in Qatar, the Taliban has continued near daily attacks, and the coalition and its Afghan partners continue to strike insurgents. Last year the U.S. launched more munitions in Afghanistan than in previous years, as troops battled the Taliban and a stubborn Islamic State affiliate. Both sides see the violence as a way to push the other into a better deal.

"The coalition is going to put pressure on the Taliban to come to the peace table. We've always been very clear about that," McKenzie said in an interview at the new NATO Special Operations Command Center. "If they don't come they're going to continue to be hit and hit hard."

Still, he spoke more optimistically about the opportunity for some type of settlement.

McKenzie, who first served in Afghanistan as a colonel in 2004 and returned as a one-star general in 2009, said there was no path to peace during those years.

Now, he said, a political agreement is possible if the Taliban is willing to bring reasonable proposals to the table.

"I'm not going to tell you that we're turning the corner, but I'm not willing to say that it's going to be status quo forever either," he said. "This is new, it's different and it offers a path if the parties would be responsive and wise enough to grasp it."

Asked about the Trump administration's stated desire to cut America's troop presence in Afghanistan to about 8,600, McKenzie would only say that, so far, he hasn't received an order to bring troops home.

He declined to say if withdrawal might be contingent on Taliban peace talk concessions.

He added, however, that he believes the Afghan security forces are improving. A key U.S. goal is to increase the capabilities of the Afghan forces so that they are able to secure their own country if coalition troops leave. But that effort has stumbled in fits and starts over the past decade, hampered by government corruption, lack of proper systems and resources and troop attrition fueled by the persistent violence.

Standing in what officials are calling the Combined Situational Awareness Room, where coalition and Afghan forces coordinate combat missions, McKenzie said previous efforts for better communication failed.

"I was here in 2009 when we first tried to do the experiment, it didn't work," he told commanders and staff. Behind them, a wall of large screens showed planned military operations, real-time video surveillance of small groups and traffic at various locations, and a scrolling social media feed. One screen provide information to help identify friendly forces

In earlier efforts, he said, "we didn't have the right people. My sense now is we have the right people" who are willing to share information and pass it along to troops who can act on it.

The center is run by NATO Special Operations Command and mainly coordinates coalition and Afghan commando counterterrorism missions, but it also includes some Afghan National Army operations.

Some Americans to leave China, many stay after US advisory

By JOE McDONALD, SAM McNEIL and DAKE KANG Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Some Americans plan to leave China after the U.S. government advised about a spreading virus outbreak, but many others are staying.

The State Department issued a travel advisory Friday saying Americans in China "should consider departing." That followed the evacuation earlier this week of about 200 Americans from Wuhan, the locked-down city at the center of the outbreak. A second flight is planned next week.

In addition to tourists, tens of thousands of Americans live and work in China in business and teaching. Some have been in the country for decades.

JAMES DICKEY

Dickey, a kindergarten teacher, said he is "really scared" and trying to arrange for his 8-year-old daughter and ex-wife to leave Wuhan for the United States.

He lives in Changsha, about 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of Wuhan.

"In 10 years living here in China, I've never seen anything like this, not even close," he said. "The fact

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 20 of 71

that our governments are taking such drastic and dire measures right now really tells me that the situation is probably worse than what we've been led to believe, or what the numbers would indicate."

He spoke from a train as he returned from Beijing, where he had come to get his daughter an emergency passport so she and his ex-wife can get on an upcoming U.S. government-chartered evacuation flight from Wuhan.

He planned to stay in China with his Chinese girlfriend. "If I leave, she's going to be all alone in a city that's not her hometown, so if I left her right now that would be a really terrible thing to do," he said. "I couldn't do that to her."

MANDY IACAMPO

Iacampo, who has lived in China for two years, said she has no plans to leave and is more worried about the flu.

"I'm honestly more concerned with traveling than with being here," the 25-year-old kindergarten teacher said. "Looking at the numbers, especially compared to things like the flu that put me in danger, I'm not especially concerned."

The Arkansas native said her school in Beijing has postponed reopening after the Lunar New Year holiday by a week to Feb. 10 and friends are less willing to go out.

"I'm wearing masks out and about," she said. "But generally speaking my daily life hasn't had to change."

MIKE WESTER

Wester, a businessman who has lived in China for 19 years, is staying in Beijing and "self-quarantining myself," which feels safer than facing airports crowded with strangers.

"I can control my own behavior," he said. "I can't vouch for everyone who is standing in all those lines that they are not being irresponsible."

Wester is chief executive of True Run Media, an advertising company that produces magazines, websites and events in Beijing and Shanghai.

He and his wife are staying home with their 12-year-old daughter. Her school is closed but she is keeping busy writing blog entries for his company, including a series on meals that can be made with three basic ingredients.

Wester, who lived in China during the 2002-03 SARS outbreak, has organized a group for Americans on China's popular WeChat messaging service to try to dispel false information and calm fears.

"I've been reading about this and trying to calm people down," he said. "It feels like a full-time job."

LISSA LAYMAN

Layman said she and her husband have no plans to leave.

The couple are showing her sister, who is visiting from the United States, around Beijing. They bicycled in the city and went to Tiananmen Square and brew pubs.

"We haven't been quarantining ourselves, but we are taking precautions like washing our hands and wearing masks," said Layman, who has been a teacher in Beijing since mid-2018.

JACK RAYMOND

Raymond, from Portland, Oregon, is wavering.

"I'm trying to not spread or get into a state of panic," said Raymond, 28. "But I don't know if the severity is such that I should either leave or stay put and hunker down in my apartment."

Raymond, who has lived in Beijing for four years and teaches drama at a school, is reluctant to give up friends and work connections. He said he has stayed indoors for a week, going out only to buy food.

"I have family back in the States and they're all urging me to leave China now," said Raymond. "I almost bought a plane ticket yesterday. So I really am teetering on the edge."

KELLY FLANAGAN

Flanagan, a school counselor in China since 2011, is in the United States and has no plans to return soon.

Almost all the passengers were wearing masks when she flew out of Shanghai on Jan. 25 and, when one passenger sneezed, "everyone gave her death-stares," she said.

Flanagan, 36, is working remotely with her students to prepare for English proficiency exams, though

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 21 of 71

they have been canceled because of the outbreak.

"This is probably going to be a while," she said.

US advises no travel to China, where virus deaths top 200

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The U.S. advised against all travel to China as the number of cases of a worrying new virus spiked more than tenfold in a week, including the highest death toll in a 24-hour period reported Friday.

The virus has infected almost 10,000 people globally in just two months, a worrying sign of its spread that prompted the World Health Organization to declare the outbreak a global emergency.

The State Department's travel advisory told Americans in China to consider departing using commercial means, and requested that all non-essential U.S. government personnel defer travel in light of the virus.

China as of Friday morning counted 9,692 confirmed cases with a death toll of 213, including 43 new fatalities. The vast majority of the cases have been in Hubei province and its provincial capital, Wuhan, where the first illnesses were detected in December. No deaths have been reported outside China.

The National Health Commission reported 171 cases have been "cured and discharged from hospital." WHO has said most people who got the illness had milder cases, though 20% experienced severe symptoms. Symptoms of the new coronavirus include fever and cough and in severe cases, shortness of breath and pneumonia.

Meanwhile, China was arranging special flights to help Wuhan residents return home from holidays abroad. Some waiting for a charter flight leaving Bangkok said they wanted to return to take care of their loved ones.

China's foreign ministry gave few details on the flights, but said people from Hubei and especially Wuhan would be sent directly back as soon as possible in light of the "practical difficulties" they were encountering.

China has placed more than 50 million people in the region under virtual quarantine, while foreign countries, companies and airlines have cut back severely on travel to China and quarantined those who recently passed through Wuhan. The virus is believed to have a two-week incubation period, during which those infected can pass on the illness even if they show no symptoms such as fever and cough.

Since China informed WHO about the new virus in late December, at least 20 countries have reported cases, as scientists race to understand how exactly the virus is spreading and how severe it is.

Experts say there is significant evidence the virus is spreading among people in China and WHO noted with its emergency declaration Thursday it was especially concerned that some cases abroad also involved human-to-human transmission. It defines an international emergency as an "extraordinary event" that constitutes a risk to other countries and requires a coordinated international response.

"The main reason for this declaration is not because of what is happening in China but because of what is happening in other countries," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters in Geneva. "Our greatest concern is the potential for this virus to spread to countries with weaker health systems which are ill-prepared to deal with it.

"This declaration is not a vote of non-confidence in China," he said. "On the contrary, WHO continues to have the confidence in China's capacity to control the outbreak."

A declaration of a global emergency typically brings greater money and resources, but may also prompt nervous governments to restrict travel and trade to affected countries. The announcement also imposes more disease reporting requirements on countries.

On Friday, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing said it was authorizing the departure of family members and all non-emergency U.S. government employees from Beijing and the consulates in the cities of Chengdu, Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Shenyang. Staff from the Wuhan consulate departed earlier this week.

The decision was made "out of an abundance of caution related to logistical disruptions stemming from restricted transportation and availability of appropriate health care related to the novel coronavirus," the embassy said.

The level 4 "Do Not Travel" advisory is the highest grade of warning.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 22 of 71

Mike Wester, a businessman in Beijing who has lived in China for 19 years, said he has no plans to leave. "I feel safer self-quarantining myself here at home than I do risking travel," said Wester. He pointed to potential risks from crowds at airports and being required to remove a mask for passport and security checks.

Speaking by Skype from Utah, Kelly Flanagan, 36, a school counselor in China since 2011, said she is planning to stay out of China as she watches the virus spread.

"This is probably going to be awhile," said Flanagan, who said her Type 1 diabetes added to her health concerns. From the U.S. she is working remotely with her students to help them pass English proficiency exams.

Japan and Germany also advised against non-essential travel and Britain did as well, except for Hong Kong and Macao. Popular holiday and shopping destination Singapore barred Chinese from traveling there, becoming the first Southeast Asian nation to do so.

Tedros said WHO was not recommending limiting travel or trade to China, where transport links have shut down in places and businesses including Starbucks and McDonald's temporarily closing hundreds of shops.

"There is no reason for measures that unnecessarily interfere with international travel and trade," he said. He added that Chinese President Xi Jinping had committed to help stop the spread of the virus beyond its borders.

China's U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun said Thursday evening in New York that "we are still at a very critical stage in fighting the coronavirus" but stressed that the epidemic is still mainly confined to China and urged the international community against any overreaction.

He said China appreciated "the friendly gesture made by the international community" in providing medical equipment, and "what are needed urgently," especially in Hubei province, are masks and other protective medical supplies including glasses.

Although scientists expect to see limited transmission of the virus between people with close contact, like within families, the instances of spread to people who may have had less exposure to the virus is worrying.

In Japan, a tour guide and bus driver became infected after escorting two tour groups from Wuhan. In Germany, five employees of German auto parts supplier Webasto became ill after a Chinese colleague visited. The woman had shown no symptoms of the virus until her flight back to China.

"That's the kind of transmission chain that we don't want to see," said Marion Koopmans, an infectious diseases specialist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands and a member of WHO's emergency committee.

On Friday, Thailand said a taxi driver became its first case of person-to-person spread. The Southeast Asian country, a popular travel destination for Chinese, has counted 19 cases in all.

Italy and England confirmed two cases each, the first cases in those countries. At least 20 countries beyond China have confirmed cases.

The new virus has now infected more people in China than were sickened there during the 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, a cousin of the new virus. Both are from the coronavirus family, which also includes those that can cause the common cold.

Associated Press writers Joe McDonald and Sam McNeil in Beijing, Maria Cheng in London, Jamey Keaten in Geneva, Edith Lederer at the United Nations, Elaine Ganley in Paris, Frank Jordans in Berlin and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

This story corrects the number of cases in China that have been cured and discharged to 171, not 596.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 23 of 71

Brexit reflections: A bumpy ride down a long, winding road

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — So this is the way Britain's European Union membership ends: Not with Big Ben's bong, but with a whimper.

The bell won't toll when the moment finally comes ; Parliament's famous clock tower is undergoing repairs because it is crumbling and age-worn. At this point, who isn't?

After 3½ years of wrangling and rancor, Britain is not so much leaving the EU in triumph as stumbling exhausted across the finish line, like a runner at the end of a marathon. With another marathon starting tomorrow.

There were years of late-night Brexit votes in the House of Commons, all-night EU summits and political drama as Britain's relationship with its neighbors and its unwritten constitution were both stretched to the limit. It has been a frustrating, confusing, tiring, endlessly fascinating and agonizingly inconclusive journey.

One thing is certain: June 23, 2016, the date of Britain's referendum on EU membership, feels like a long time ago.

The decision on whether or not to leave the bloc was bound to be divisive, dredging up deeply held notions of identity, sovereignty and allegiance. But the campaign was even more rancorous than many had predicted. When pro-EU Labour Party lawmaker Jo Cox was killed by a far-right extremist a week before the referendum, it felt like a dark chapter might be about to open.

Most opinion polls had suggested the U.K. would vote to remain in the EU, so the result was a shock to many politicians. Judging by his stricken look, it seemed to even surprise Boris Johnson, co-leader of the Vote Leave campaign.

But the clues had been there all along. Eight years after the 2008 financial crisis and six years into public spending cuts by Britain's Conservative government, many voters were eager to defy the authorities in both London and Brussels.

The aftermath of the narrow victory by anti-EU forces was clearly a time for healing and compromise. But that didn't happen.

Brexit's main backers, including Johnson, quit the scene rather than try to deliver on their promises. That left Britain in the hands of Prime Minister Theresa May, a remainer-turned-leaver who was mistrusted by both sides of the Brexit divide.

In the divorce negotiations that followed, the EU stayed firm while Britain battled itself. U.K. politicians who wanted to leave the EU couldn't agree on the terms of a deal, and those who wanted to stay squabbled over strategy.

After an ill-judged snap election in 2017 cost May her majority in Parliament, the government essentially ceased to function, unable to pass laws or deliver its Brexit blueprint. Tempers rose on the street as rival protesters traded abuse, while politicians faced jeers and online death threats.

May couldn't achieve Brexit, but she did rack up a string of political firsts, including the biggest defeat in Commons history for her Brexit divorce deal. She watched helplessly as pro-EU lawmakers, aided by assertive Commons Speaker John Bercow, seized control of Parliament's agenda to try to force a change of course. But May's opponents couldn't agree on what to do, either.

May's own Conservative lawmakers tried to depose her, but she hung on. The first Brexit day, long scheduled for March 29, 2019, was postponed to Oct. 31 of that year, and May was finally forced to admit defeat. She quit and was replaced in July 2019 by Johnson, a politician better known as someone who can entertain but not necessarily deliver.

At first, he faced the same paralysis. In a bid to break the deadlock, he suspended Parliament, a political nuclear option that was immediately challenged in the courts.

Brexit perhaps reached peak mayhem on Sept. 24, 2019. Johnson, in New York to address the U.N. General Assembly, learned at 5 a.m. that the U.K. Supreme Court had ruled that he'd broken the law and misled Queen Elizabeth II by misleading her about the reason for the suspension. Johnson argued it was routine, but the court ruled he was trying to avoid scrutiny of his Brexit plans.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 24 of 71

Johnson and his aides cut short a trip that had been intended to showcase "global Britain" and flew back to London, and a political storm.

With just weeks to go before Brexit was due, Johnson vowed to leave the EU, with or without a deal. Pro-Brexit politicians increasingly talked about a no-deal Brexit — an idea never raised even during the referendum campaign — as an acceptable and even desirable outcome.

That came despite increasingly frantic warnings from businesses about the disruption that would ensue after such a break with Britain's biggest trading partner.

Doug Bannister, chief executive of the Port of Dover, warned that traffic at Britain's busiest port would be cut in half if there was a no-deal Brexit. "It's not going to be OK," he warned.

Suddenly, all those people setting up Brexit hoarder groups on Facebook didn't seem so extreme.

Then, quite quickly, the political landscape changed. Johnson secured a new "oven ready" Brexit deal. He didn't mention that it was remarkably similar to May's rejected agreement — he just seemed to be able to sell it better.

Like May, Johnson gambled on a snap election. Unlike May, he won. Johnson campaigned on the simple promise to "Get Brexit Done," which struck a chord with weary voters who just wanted the whole sorry saga to be finished.

Johnson's party won 43.6% of the vote, not an overwhelming endorsement but enough in Britain's political system for the biggest Conservative majority since Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s.

Johnson will achieve his goal at 11 p.m. London time on Friday. The commemorative tea towels and fridge magnets are already for sale on the Conservative Party website, proclaiming "Got Brexit Done."

Not so fast.

In actuality, very little will change during an 11-month transition period.

But after that?

Will British firms be able to trade tariff-free with the EU? Will British students be able to go on European academic exchanges? Will British police be able to arrest suspects who have fled to the EU? All this and much more must still be negotiated, and Johnson has set an end-of-year deadline to secure a deal.

Britain may be leaving the EU, but the nature of its European identity and relationship with its neighbors are far from resolved.

Meanwhile, the work of Britain's Parliament has gone back to what used to be normal. The government wins votes and the opposition loses them. The Labour Party, trounced in December's election, licks its wounds and prepares to elect a new leader. Political journalists have started making evening plans again.

It's quiet out there: too quiet.

It probably won't last.

Jill Lawless has covered the twists and turns of Britain's Brexit saga since 2016.

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

Johnson hails UK's 'new beginning' as Brexit day arrives

By JILL LAWLESS and RAF CASERT Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain begins the day as a member of the European Union. Its status at the end of the day — as a proud nation that has reclaimed its sovereignty, or a diminished presence in Europe and the world — will still be up for debate.

The EU will have to bounce back from one of its biggest setbacks in its 62-year history to confront an ever more complicated world with a new, staunchly free-market competitor just across the English Channel.

Britain officially departs the EU at 11 p.m. local time Friday, midnight in Brussels (2300 GMT, 6 p.m. EST). The departure comes 3½ years after the country voted by a margin of 52%-48% to walk away from the club that it had joined in 1973.

It's the first time a country has left the EU, and many in the bloc rued the day. In Brussels, EU Com-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 25 of 71

mission President Ursula von der Leyen lamented that "as the sun rises tomorrow a new chapter for our union of 27 will start."

But she warned Brexit day would mark a major loss for the U.K. and said the island nation is heading for a lonelier existence. "Strength does not lie in splendid isolation, but in our unique union." Newspapers across the continent were marking the departure with headlines of "Adieu to Europe" and "Bye-Bye!" next to a Union Jack flag.

U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson is to meet in the morning with his Cabinet in the pro-Brexit town of Sunderland, in northeast England. He is scheduled to deliver a televised address to the country an hour before departure, calling Brexit "not an end but a beginning."

According to his office, he will describe it as "a moment of real national renewal and change."

The government hopes the moment will be marked in a dignified, nontriumphalist fashion, with red, white and blue lights illuminating government buildings and a countdown clock projected onto the prime minister's 10 Downing St. residence.

Some Brexit supporters will be holding more raucous celebrations. Arch-Brexitteer Nigel Farage and his band of devotees will gather for patriotic songs and speeches in London's Parliament Square to mark a moment that even Farage sometimes doubted would ever come.

Others do not feel like indulging in any festivities. Lawyer Alice Cole-Roberts said Friday morning she expects "more and more frustration" as Brexit unfolds.

"It's a very sad day," she said. "I'm very upset that we are leaving the European Union and I simply wish it didn't happen."

For the next 11 months, the EU and Britain will already be pitted against one another as they seek to negotiate a trade and security deal as part of their new relationship.

"It is clear that the EU will be united in defending its interests," von der Leyen said. "For all third countries, the rule is that only by recognizing the EU single market rules can you reap the rewards." Britain has already vowed it will not agree to follow an EU rule book in return for unfettered trade.

"As good friends, we can be tough and fair in negotiations," she said.

Britain was never a wholehearted EU member, but actually leaving the bloc was long considered a fringe idea. It gradually gained strength within the Conservative Party, which has a wing of fierce "euroskeptics" — opponents of EU membership. Former Prime Minister David Cameron eventually agreed to hold a referendum, saying he wanted to settle the issue once and for all.

It hasn't worked out that way. Since the 2016 vote, the U.K. has held fractious negotiations with the EU that finally, late last year, secured a deal on divorce terms. But Britain is leaving the bloc arguably as divided as it was on referendum day.

By and large, Britain's big cities voted to stay in the EU, while small towns voted to leave. England and Wales backed Brexit, while Northern Ireland and Scotland voted to remain.

In Brussels, the Brexit-backing lawmakers at the European Parliament were making the most of their last day, walking to the sound of bagpipes, with luggage in hand, to take the Eurostar high-speed train back to London.

In Edinburgh, the EU flag will not be lowered outside the Scottish Parliament on Friday night. Lawmakers there voted to keep it as a symbol of their opposition to Brexit. Scotland's pro-EU government will also light up two government buildings in the blue and yellow of the EU flag on Friday.

Scottish Brexit Secretary Mike Russell urged the EU to "leave a light on for Scotland" so that it could eventually return. The governing Scottish National Party wants Scotland to become an independent EU member country, separate from the U.K.

"It is a stark fact that tomorrow we leave, dragged out against our will, despite the clear instruction of the Scottish people," Russell said Thursday.

London, which is home to more than 1 million EU citizens, also voted by a wide margin to stay in the bloc. Mayor Sadiq Khan, who has linked the Brexit vote to a rise in xenophobic abuse, said Britain's capital would remain "a truly global, European city."

"We continue to be a beacon for progressive ideas, for liberal values and for decency and diversity,"

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 26 of 71

Khan said in a statement. "And we will continue to welcome people from around the world, regardless of the color of their skin, the color of their passport or the colors of their national flag."

Britain's departure is a historic moment, but it only marks the end of the first stage of the Brexit saga. When Britons wake up on Saturday, they will notice very little change. The U.K. and the EU have given themselves an 11 month "transition period" -- in which the U.K. will continue to follow the bloc's rules -- to strike new agreements on trade, security and a host of other areas.

Negotiations are due to start in March, and the early signs are not encouraging.

Johnson's government hopes to negotiate a deal with the EU alongside a free trade agreement with the United States. That's also likely to be contentious. Opposition politicians are already raising concerns about issues ranging from food-safety standards - especially the U.S. practice of chlorine-washing chicken to kill germs - to drug prices.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who met Johnson in London on Thursday, said the U.S. would put Britain "at the front of the line" in its trade relationships after Brexit.

Associated Press writers Matthew Lee and Jo Kearney contributed. Casert reported from Brussels

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

Weinstein rape accuser to testify in pivotal trial moment

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

NEW YORK (AP) — The woman whose rape allegation led to criminal charges against Harvey Weinstein is set to testify Friday in a pivotal moment for both sides in his #MeToo-era trial.

Prosecutors look to hammer home the most serious charges in a case that stems from the allegations of just two of the scores of women who have accused Weinstein of violating them. A conviction could put him behind bars for the rest of his life.

Meanwhile, Weinstein's lawyers plan to seize on the accuser's complicated history with the disgraced film producer, including continued interactions and warm emails she sent him, as they try to raise doubts about her credibility.

The Associated Press has a policy of not publishing the names of sexual assault accusers without their consent. It is withholding the woman's name because it isn't clear if she wishes to be identified publicly.

The woman alleges Weinstein raped her in his New York City hotel room in March 2013 after injecting his penis with medicine to induce an erection. She was a 27-year-old aspiring actress and he was about to turn 61.

Weinstein's lawyers say the woman followed up the alleged rape with warm — even flirtatious — emails that said things like "Miss you, big guy," and no one "understands me quite like you." The defense says the messages point to a consensual relationship, not a heinous sex crime.

Not once, in more than 400 messages between the two, did the woman accuse Weinstein of harming her, his lawyers have said.

On Monday, jurors heard from the other woman whose allegations have led to charges in the New York case. Mimi Haley, a former production assistant for "Project Runway," testified that Weinstein forcibly performed oral sex on her in 2006.

Weinstein has insisted any sexual encounters were consensual.

Two other accusers whose allegations are not part of the criminal charges against Weinstein also testified this week, called by prosecutors to bolster their case that he has violated many women in the same manner over the years.

Last week, "Sopranos" actress Annabella Sciorra testified that Weinstein overpowered and raped her after barging into her apartment in the mid-1990s. That allegation is outside the statute of limitations, but is part of prosecutors' strategy to show that the powerful Hollywood mogul had a habit of preying on women.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 27 of 71

In questioning those women, Weinstein's lawyers also took aim at their continued interactions with him, suggesting that a follow-up meeting or communication with Weinstein was a sign that nothing untoward had happened.

But Dr. Barbara Ziv, a sex crimes expert whom the prosecution called as a witness, testified last week that most sex assault victims continue to have contact with their attackers, sometimes because those attackers threaten retaliation if the victims tell anyone what happened.

Victims are "hoping this is just an aberration" and they can also end up blaming themselves, Ziv testified.

Anticipating the defense's expected line of questioning Friday, prosecutor Meghan Hast told jurors in an opening statement last week that the alleged rape victim had "buried her trauma" and was trying to navigate Weinstein's powerful grip on her by pretending she wanted to see him and saying nice things.

To prosecutors, the woman behind the rape charge is a prime example of a Weinstein target: a young, vulnerable woman who believed the once-revered movie mogul sincerely wanted to help her fledgling career, only for him to make increasingly vile sexual advances.

"He was the old lady in the gingerbread house luring the kids in, missing the oven behind," Hast said in her opening statement.

Hast said the woman and Weinstein met at a Hollywood party in February 2013 and Weinstein appeared to take an instant liking to her. They had several follow up meetings, ostensibly to talk about her career, but things turned more and more sexual, the prosecutor said.

At one meeting, Weinstein tried to give the woman a massage, only for her to rebuff him and offer him a massage instead, Hast said. At another meeting, the prosecutor said Weinstein forcibly performed oral sex on the woman.

The day of the alleged rape, Hast said, the woman and her actress roommate were supposed to meet Weinstein for breakfast, but instead the woman and Weinstein got into a heated confrontation that he demanded they finish in his hotel room.

There, Hast said, Weinstein started ripping the woman's clothes off and raped her. The prosecutor said Weinstein raped the woman again in November 2013 when she was working as a hairdresser and went to cut his hair.

Weinstein has not been charged in that alleged incident.

His lawyers note that the woman's emails continued after the second alleged rape. In February 2017, she wrote Weinstein to tell him she had a scheduling conflict and couldn't make it to a hotel to see him.

"I love you, always do. But I hate feeling like a booty call," she wrote, adding a smiling-face symbol afterward.

On Twitter, follow Michael Sisak at twitter.com/mikesisak and Tom Hays at twitter.com/aptomhays

For more coverage of Harvey Weinstein's trial visit: apnews.com/HarveyWeinstein

McConnell's Democratic rival McGrath endorses Biden for 2020

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amy McGrath, a former Marine combat aviator who has raised more than \$16 million in her effort to challenge Sen. Mitch McConnell in November's election, said Friday that she was endorsing Joe Biden for president.

The former vice president campaigned in Kentucky for McGrath in her unsuccessful 2018 race for a U.S. House seat. Now she is trying to win the Democratic Senate nomination and unseat McConnell, one of the most powerful men in Washington.

McGrath said Biden was "respected and beloved by Democrats and Republicans alike" and had the ability to bring the country back together.

"Honor and integrity are at the heart of everything Marines do," McGrath said in a statement. "It's why I believe so strongly that Joe Biden is the president who can return honor and integrity to the Oval Office."

McGrath joins a growing group of centrist-leaning House members who are backing the former vice

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 28 of 71

president as he tries to consolidate enough votes in the moderate wing of his party to secure the Democratic nomination. Among those is Rep. Elaine Luria of Virginia, who was a classmate of McGrath's at the Naval Academy.

Biden's campaign welcomed the endorsement from McGrath.

"We are honored to welcome Amy to Team Joe in the fight for the soul of our nation and look forward to taking down Mitch McConnell and taking back the Senate," said Greg Schultz, Biden's campaign manager.

Biden has said he considered McConnell, with whom he served for decades in the Senate, a friend he could work with as president. The remark drew criticism from some of his Democratic rivals, who noted McConnell's obstruction of President Barack Obama's agenda.

President Donald Trump is popular in the state, and McConnell is one of the officials most key to the president's success. The Senate majority leader is known for his powerful political organization in the state and is considered a solid favorite.

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

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. 'THERE IS NO NEED FOR MORE EVIDENCE' Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee will oppose calling more witnesses in Trump's impeachment trial, all but dashing Democratic efforts to hear more testimony and boosting odds of a quick acquittal.

2. US ADVISES AGAINST TRAVEL TO CHINA This after the World Health Organization declares the outbreak of a new virus that has spread to more than a dozen countries a global emergency.

3. CHINA FACES HUGE LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES AFTER OUTBREAK Keeping 50 million people from the locked-down city of Wuhan and the vicinity supplied with food and other necessities is a massive challenge for the Chinese government.

4. IT'S BREXIT DAY By the end of the day, Britain will be a former member of the European Union, exiting a bloc it had joined in 1973.

5. WHAT'S STILL VULNERABLE TO MANIPULATION Experts warn that cheap online political ads are still susceptible to manipulation by foreign governments and domestic grifters trying to influence the election.

6. NETANYAHU'S WILD WEEK The Israeli prime minister revealed in Trump's Mideast plan, but now his West Bank annexation plan is in question and a criminal trial casts a cloud over his re-election hopes.

7. SUPER BOWL HOST CITY WRACKED BY POVERTY A big sporting event puts all aspects of the socio-economic spectrum on display, and most people who live in Miami Gardens, Florida, simply cannot afford to attend the NFL championship game.

8. TRUMP TO CREATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING POST Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter and senior adviser, compared trafficking to "modern-day slavery" and says the White House is committed to ending it.

9. 'A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN A LIFETIME' At a pre-Super Bowl concert, Lizzo reflects on her soaring career as she remembers attending the big game as a teenager, watching Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake join forces onstage.

10. SIDELINE REPORTERS HAVE KEY ROLE Fox Sports' Chris Myers and Erin Andrews will be the eyes and ears for the production truck as well as Joe Buck and Troy Aikman in the booth.

AP Exclusive: History-making tunnelers look beyond Brexit

By JOHN LEICESTER *undefined*

DOVER, England (AP) — One tunneling from France, the other digging from Britain, the two men smashed with pummeling jackhammers through the last slivers of rock separating their nations.

Through the newly created hole, Graham Fagg, of Dover, England, and Philippe Cozette, of Calais, France, enthusiastically grasped each other's outstretched hands. Then, they posed with their nations' flags for photos that broadcast a message of friendship to the world. The French and the British, neighbors until then separated by the seas and with a long history of war and rivalry but also of alliances and admiration, were now physically and permanently joined, seemingly closer than ever.

How poignant and instructive those images now look, as Brexit drives Britain and France apart.

On that historic day on Dec. 1, 1990, in their hard hats and under billions of tons of rock and seawater deep under the English Channel, neither Fagg, Cozette, nor anyone could have foreseen that the ever-closer bonds of unity and shared ambitions embodied by the newly dug Eurotunnel would unravel in less than 30 years.

"A fabulous moment," Cozette says of that watershed that turned Fagg and him into symbols of cooperation and the inexorable march of human technology and will. "On our side, there were tears."

"History made," Fagg recalls. "Time passes so quickly, doesn't it?"

Because they were such important protagonists in Anglo-French history, and because Britain's departure Friday from the European Union represents another momentous milestone for both their nations, The Associated Press brought Cozette and Fagg back together this week.

Because their unique story never gets old. And because it offers pointers about where France and Britain might go next.

In the cosy front room of Fagg's Dover home, not underground this time, the men howled with laughter as they watched archive footage of themselves vigorously digging their way to their first meeting, nearly 30 years ago as they joined the two parts of the underwater tunnel into one.

Cozette, now 66, recalled how he got Fagg's first name wrong, saying "welcome to France, Bob," as they shook hands through the opening.

Later, in celebrations at Dover Castle, "We sang 'La Marseillaise' and 'God Save the Queen,'" he said.

"French and English together. It was nice, super."

Fagg, now 71, recalled the Champagne, wine and nibbles that the French plied him with, such a contrast to fare on the British side: "Tea, coffee and water and sandwiches."

Because the British tunnelers weren't allowed to smoke in their half of the tunnel, they'd head over to the French side to light up.

And the takeaway from this reunion, Cozette and Fagg's first in nearly five years?

Perhaps this: Brexit is certainly a new chapter in ties between France and Britain, but it most certainly is not the end.

In part, they both agreed, because of the tunnel they helped build.

"The British made a choice. You have to respect that," Cozette said. "But the links that have been created over centuries between our two countries, and in particular our two regions, because of their proximity but also because of the tunnel, they are very important for me."

"I think we'll get used to it," he added. "Things will go back to the way they were, before Britain was part of Europe."

In 1975, and like a large majority of Britons, Fagg voted "Yes" in a referendum that asked whether Britain should stay in the European Community, the EU's predecessor.

But when Britain was asked again in 2016, Fagg then voted with the small majority that wanted out.

The EU, he feels, has become too big and overbearing, "a colossus, a very expensive colossus."

But, on the ground, Fagg is not expecting massive change.

"Before we joined (the EU), people still used to go to France, they used to come from France to here," Fagg said. "I don't think it's going to be any different."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 30 of 71

And three decades after their first handshake, and like Britain and France, Cozette and Fagg are adding new twists to their story, too.

Unbeknownst in advance to anyone, Fagg used the reunion to spring a surprise on his French friend.

In their first encounter in the tunnel, Fagg had been embarrassed when Cozette presented him with a gift: a piece of chalk dug up from the tunnel on the French side.

"I attached a red, white and blue ribbon to it, the colors of England and France," Cozette recalled.

Fagg hadn't had time to prepare a gift of his own. Only the previous night, at the end of his shift, had his boss told Fagg that he'd been selected to make the breakthrough the next morning.

"I said, 'You're bloody joking,'" he recalled. "I said, 'I've got plans for tomorrow.'"

The response from his boss: "You're going to have to change them."

So when Cozette had given him the chunk of chalk, Fagg in return gifted the Frenchman the only thing he had handy: his identification token that all the tunnelers had to carry, like soldiers' dog tags, so they could be identified if they were involved in an accident.

"I still have his token at home," Cozette said.

Now, it was Cozette's turn to be caught empty handed.

His turn to be embarrassed when Fagg presented him with a stone, encrusted with crystals, that he'd dug up from the beginnings of another cross-Channel tunnel in 1974 that was later scrapped.

Fagg couldn't hide his delight as Cozette squirmed.

"I've been waiting all them years!" Fagg said.

Friendship, it seems, always has another episode up its sleeve.

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

Pompeo visits Ukraine as impeachment trial hangs in balance

By **MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer**

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo opened a visit to Ukraine on Friday facing a delicate balancing act as he tries to boost ties with a critical ally at the heart of the impeachment trial while not providing fodder for Democrats seeking to oust President Donald Trump.

The highest-ranking American official to visit Ukraine since the impeachment process began last year, Pompeo's was meeting with Ukraine's president and other top officials. Trump is alleged to have pressed them to open a corruption probe into former Vice President Joe Biden's family in return for vital military aid and a White House visit.

That process began last year with revelations about a July 25 phone call between Trump and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Pompeo's meetings in Kyiv come as the GOP-majority Senate prepared to vote on whether to hear witnesses who could shed further light on Trump's actions toward Ukraine. The vote appeared likely to fail, however, as a key Republican said he would vote against allowing new testimony, boosting odds the Senate will vote to acquit in a matter of days.

"U.S. support for Ukraine is unwavering, and I'm intent on underscoring this as I meet with Ukrainian government leaders to discuss ways we can advance our strategic partnership and reinforce Ukraine's position as a free and democratic state," Pompeo said in a tweet after arriving,

In addition to Zelenskyy, Pompeo is meeting Ukraine's prime, foreign and defense ministers as well as civic leaders, and touring several Ukrainian Orthodox churches.

Trump is accused of obstructing Congress and abuse of office for withholding a White House meeting with Zelenskyy and critical military aid to the country in exchange for an investigation into Biden, a political rival, and his son, Hunter.

Ukraine has been an unwilling star in the impeachment proceedings, eager for good relations with Trump as it depends heavily on U.S. support to defend itself from Russian-backed separatists. Trump, who has still not granted Zelenskyy the White House meeting he craves, has offered that support to some degree.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 31 of 71

Although the military assistance was put on hold, it was eventually released after a whistleblower complaint brought the July 25 call to light. The Trump administration has also supplied Ukraine with lethal defense equipment, including Javelin anti-tank weapons.

Pompeo plans to stress the importance of the U.S.-Ukraine relationship, a sentiment long shared by Republicans and Democrats who see the former Soviet republic as a bulwark against Russian ambitions. But it's a view that now has partisan overtones, with Democrats arguing that withholding aid from such a critical ally for political purposes is an impeachable offense.

The Senate is to vote on hearing impeachment witnesses later Friday. Democrats want to hear from former national security adviser John Bolton, whose forthcoming book reportedly says that Trump withheld the aid in exchange for a public pledge of a probe into the Bidens. That would back witnesses who testified before the House impeachment inquiry.

Ukraine has been a delicate subject for Pompeo, who last weekend lashed out at a National Public Radio reporter for asking why he has not publicly defended the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch. She was removed from her post after unsubstantiated allegations were made against her by Trump's personal attorney, Rudolph Giuliani.

Pompeo has been criticized for not publicly supporting Yovanovitch, her now-departed successor as chief of the Kyiv embassy, William Taylor, and other diplomats who testified before House impeachment investigators. Yovanovitch and Taylor have been attacked by Trump supporters and, in some cases, have been accused of disloyalty.

In the NPR interview, Pompeo took umbrage when asked if he owed Yovanovitch an apology, and maintained that he had defended all of his employees. In an angry encounter after the interview, he also questioned if Americans actually cared about Ukraine, according to NPR.

That comment prompted Taylor and Pompeo's former special envoy for Ukraine, Kurt Volker, who also testified to the impeachment panel, to write opinion pieces discussing the importance of the country to U.S. national security and why Pompeo should be explaining its role to Americans as their top diplomat.

Pompeo brushed aside his reported comment, telling reporters aboard his plane that "of course, the American people care about the people of Ukraine" and said his message to American diplomats in Ukraine would be the same he gives to those at other embassies.

"The message is very similar to every embassy that I get a chance to talk to when I travel," he said. "I almost always meet with the team and tell them how much we love them, appreciate them, appreciate their family members and their sacrifice."

He said he would "talk about the important work that the United States and Ukraine will continue to do together to fight corruption inside of that country and to ensure that America provides the support that the Ukrainian people need to ensure that they have a free and independent nation."

Pompeo twice postponed earlier planned trips to Ukraine, most recently in early January when developments with Iran forced him to cancel. Pompeo said he plans to discuss the issue of corruption but demurred when asked if he would specifically raise the Bidens or the energy company Burisma, for which Hunter Biden worked.

"I don't want to talk about particular individuals. It's not worth it," he told reporters. "It's a long list in Ukraine of corrupt individuals and a long history there. And President Zelenskyy has told us he's committed to it. The actions he's taken so far demonstrate that, and I look forward to having a conversation about that with him as well."

Pompeo traveled to Kyiv from London, which was the first stop on a trip to Europe and Central Asia that will also take him to Belarus, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

The glitz of Super Bowl heads to a blue-collar part of Miami

By **TIM REYNOLDS AP Sports Writer**

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Rashad Fenton used to work at Hard Rock Stadium.

He'll work there again Sunday, in a very different capacity than his last job.

Fenton is a rookie cornerback for the Kansas City Chiefs, with a most unusual story. He worked at Hard Rock on Sundays when he was in high school, helping with the concession operations during Miami Dolphins games. He'd walk to the stadium, do his job for a few hours, then walk back home.

"I never would have thought I'd be going to the Super Bowl," said Fenton, who grew up in Miami Gardens -- where the stadium is — a long way from famed South Beach.

Roughly one in four residents of Miami Gardens, the suburb where Super Bowl 54 between the Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers will be played Sunday, live below the poverty line. An overwhelming majority of those residents don't have college degrees, according to U.S. Census statistics. And the median household annual income is somewhere around \$43,000.

So if the typical household spent the entirety of its income for the year on Super Bowl tickets, it could buy ... not very many. Most tickets to Sunday's game were sold for more than \$5,000 apiece; some late Thursday were available for more than \$14,000 a pop. Several suites at the stadium, local officials said, were sold for more than \$300,000.

Put another way, a suite can cost what the typical Miami Gardens household makes in seven years.

As with any big event, especially in a major city where all aspects of the socioeconomic spectrum are represented, the Super Bowl is simply unaffordable for most people who live there. The NFL knows that and offers countless free and relatively low-priced events so people can experience some elements of Super Bowl week, but tickets for most are a pipe dream.

There will be about 65,000 people in the stadium Sunday, and money to some of them will be no object when it comes to arranging black car service, high-end spirits and fine dining -- creating a wild dichotomy when compared to the reality of everyday life for most people.

Fenton beat the odds. He earned his way there.

"Guys like Rashad, we need his stories because he represents hope," said Aubrey Hill, an assistant coach at FIU and Fenton's high school coach. "Kids need hope here because of their daily hardships. There can be gun violence in your neighborhood, but someone is going to the Super Bowl, that's hope. If mom or dad isn't there and they're being raised by a grandparent, they need hope. They need hope from the people like Rashad. He's a constant reminder for the kid who's been beaten down and needs positive reinforcement."

Anthony Walker Jr. is a Miami native and plays for the Indianapolis Colts. He grew up in a single-parent household and rarely went to Dolphins games as a kid, spending most of those NFL Sundays watching on television instead.

After going to college at Northwestern, one time interning with the Miami Heat and now having completed three seasons with the Colts, Walker doesn't want for much now. His biggest delight since going pro was being able to buy his dad a car, fulfilling a promise he made years earlier as a kid. But he also tries to educate people on the misguided -- yet somehow widespread -- notion that Miami is all beaches, luxury cars and mansions.

"It's a little weird," said Walker, who isn't going to the Super Bowl and gave his tickets away. "Somebody talked about it the other day, when somebody said 'We're going to South Beach' and someone had to tell them, 'No, it's in Miami Gardens.' People think about Miami and they think South Beach, and you let them know the difference. I say it's in the heart of football."

Go a mile in any direction from the stadium, where people will be spending wildly on food, drink, tickets and whatever else, and you'll find something that shows how tough things are for residents.

A run-down field. A closed business. A horse track that used to bustle and now is barely used.

"It's a hard-hat community in a hard-hat area with hard-hat high school teams," Hill said. "These kids, their parents or grandparents got up to work every day and worked a hard job. They transfer that work

ethic going forward. And there's a lot of pride in that."

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Online ads still vulnerable to manipulation in US election

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

Older men in Arkansas might see a close-up photo of President Donald Trump pumping his fist in the air, along with a message asking them to donate \$30 to his campaign for a Super Bowl commercial.

Middle-aged women in California might see a photo of Trump pointing to a crowd, with a plea for them to give "any amount" to the campaign.

Before Election Day, politicians are expected to spend more than \$1 billion to pelt voters with millions of these cheap online ads, which can be tailored to a voter's most personal details — down to one household or even a single individual.

Experts warn that this ad-targeting system is still vulnerable to manipulation by foreign governments and domestic grifters trying to influence the election, just as they did in 2016. Those attempts could become more sophisticated this year as tech companies wrestle with a dysfunctional federal election watchdog agency and deploy haphazard safeguards that still offer plenty of loopholes.

"There's now so much money and attention spent online with so few rules that if you wanted chaos, that's the place to go for chaos," said David Karpf, a political communications professor at The George Washington University. "And there's a bunch of people who want chaos."

Russia-connected accounts spent just \$100,000 on Facebook ads during the 2016 presidential election to fan division on polarizing issues such as gun control and race relations. That's a fraction of the cost of a single 30-second spot on a major TV network.

But it was enough to stir up trouble. In response, Google, Facebook and Twitter instituted verification policies that require advertisers to confirm their identity using their organization's tax identification number or other government ID. Twitter later banned all political ads.

"Microtargeting" allowed the divisive messages to reach small pockets of voters in certain geographical locations based on their specific interests.

Google this month began limiting U.S. advertisers' ability to target political ads beyond broad categories such as sex, age and postal code. Facebook will continue to allow campaigns to target voters for any reason, down to their most personal interests.

Such targeting technology offers distinct advantages.

A candidate running a TV spot might reach a specific audience watching the show "The Real Housewives of Atlanta." But on Facebook that same candidate can run a specific ad aimed at Atlanta housewives who lean moderate, like to hunt and hold a master's degree, for instance.

In Texas, for example, Republican strategist Chris Wilson said his polling found suburban women were frustrated by red-light cameras, so he targeted thousands of them on Facebook with ads promising that his client GOP Gov. Greg Abbott would abolish the cameras if elected to a second term in 2018.

Abbott won and signed a law last summer banning red-light cameras in the state. Wilson argues that microtargeting helps to mobilize voters around certain issues.

Google and Facebook have spent years collecting troves of data that now help campaigns persuade voters, said Luca Cian, a professor at the Darden School of Business who focuses on how marketing affects political campaigns.

"I can specify that one person in one specific household should see a specific ad," he said. "And their neighbor could see a different ad."

It's not just campaigns running ads. With the click of a button and a few hundred dollars, ordinary people or businesses can now purchase political ads that are directed at specific groups of people to see.

The sheer volume of ads makes it nearly impossible to track them.

"How does anybody even begin to try and keep up and monitor tens of thousands ... or maybe millions

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 34 of 71

of ads?" asked Ellen Weintraub, chairwoman of the Federal Elections Commission, the taxpayer-funded watchdog agency that creates and enforces rules for federal campaigns.

That's a problem for journalists seeking to hold politicians accountable and for opposing candidates who might unwittingly be featured in an attack ad by political rivals.

In nearly every type of race — from city council candidates to the presidential election — campaigns might struggle to spot false claims running about their candidate online, said Democratic campaign consultant Jared Kamrass.

"If a negative ad is run against my candidate on digital, I almost have no way of knowing about it unless someone screenshots it," Kamrass said.

Since the last presidential election, tech companies have considered many questions: Should they allow political ads at all? Fact-check them? Catalog them in a public database? Prevent them from being targeted to small groups of people?

Some companies adopted their own rules for political ads. Twitter, which made little money off the ads, took the most radical step. In November, CEO Jack Dorsey announced the site would reject all political ads from its platform worldwide.

The tech companies have been left to regulate themselves, in part, because the FEC has been gridlocked for years over rules that would be tailored to the booming online political ad industry. The agency is without a full set of leaders and does not have a quorum needed to consider new rules for ads or to penalize campaigns for violating the law.

"We end up in kind of the messy state we're in when your regulators stop regulating and there's a ton of money in the system," Karpf added. "Of course that's going to end up going haywire."

Facebook has stuck to its plan of prohibiting third-party fact checkers from rating political ads as false, despite widespread criticism from politicians such as Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

The social network has acknowledged that the tools aren't perfect. Sarah Schiff, a Facebook product manager, said the goal is to make it "more difficult" for bad actors to misuse the platform.

Even smaller platforms, including TikTok and Pinterest, have been forced to confront the issue by banning political ads entirely, as has the Microsoft-owned LinkedIn. But none of those rules is foolproof.

Experts say political campaigns, foreign government and trolls will continue to push the boundaries, testing to see which messages, images or videos resonate with potential voters based on their data.

"For democracy to work, you need a common reality, which means a common understanding of who's saying what when," said Daniel G. Newman, the president of MapLight, a nonprofit that tracks political money, lobbying and votes. "But when politicians are saying different things to different audiences, even thousands of different small audiences, there's an inability to hold them accountable."

How to bet on the Super Bowl as legal sport betting spreads

By WAYNE PARRY Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — With legal sports betting continuing to spread in the U.S., this year's Super Bowl is likely to be among the most wagered-on championship games ever.

The gambling industry's trade association, the American Gaming Association, estimates \$6.8 billion will be bet legally and illegally on the game. It says 26 million Americans plan to make a bet, up 15% from last year. And a survey by the online bookmaker DraftKings found 78% of respondents say they're more likely to watch the whole game if they have a bet on it.

While many football fans are old hats at betting on the big game, through means legal and otherwise, the Feb. 2 game will be only the second since a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that opened the door for all 50 states to offer legal sports betting (so far, 14 offer it).

Here is a guide to betting on the big game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers: — The most popular bets continue to be on the point spread (the number of points by which a team must win the game in order for the bet to be a winner) and the total, also known as the over/under (the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 35 of 71

total number of points scored by both teams).

Contrary to popular belief, the point spread is not a consensus on how many points oddsmakers think one team will win by. Rather, it is a number designed to generate as close to an equal number of bets on both sides as possible. That way, the oddsmakers are guaranteed a profit through a cut of the action, called the vigorish, or "vig." (Many books, hoping to sound less wiseguy-ish, call it "the price.") Most sports books will keep about 10% of a winning bet before paying you the rest, but they keep 100% of all losing bets. Prices on Super Bowl bets can vary significantly, so it pays to shop around to get the lowest price you can before making a bet.

If you believe the game will be a high-scoring affair, you might want to make a bet on the total, which recently was set at 54.5 points. That means if you bet the over, both teams combined must score at least 55 points for your bet to win. If it doesn't, people who bet the under will win.

— Don't like the odds you're being offered? There are alternatives, but they can be costly. Many sports books offer so-called teasers in which you can move the line up or down by 6, 6.5, 7 or more points on at least two combined bets.

A typical bet might be taking the 49ers, who are already getting 1 point, and teasing the spread up to 8, meaning Kansas City would now have to win by nine points. The other half of the teaser could involve lowering the total from 54.5 to 47.5, meaning both teams combined would have to score at least 48 points. The tricky part about this is BOTH bets must win in order for your teaser to be a winner. If your team covers the 8-point spread, but both teams only combine for 42 points, your bet loses.

— If this sounds like a lot to take in, there are much simpler ways to bet on the game, including some aimed at the casual fan or even someone who knows nothing at all about football. A perennial favorite is betting on the coin flip at the start of the game to determine which team can choose to get the ball first. There are only two choices: heads or tails, and it comes before the game even starts for those impatient to know whether their bet is a winner.

This is what's called a proposition or "prop" bet. It involves betting on whether a particular event will or won't happen during the game. They can be disarmingly simple, such as guessing which team will get the ball first, whether the first score of the game will be a touchdown or a field goal, and whether or not the game will go into overtime.

Prop bets based on a particular player's performance are always popular during the Super Bowl. You can bet on whether Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes will pass for over or under 299 yards, how many catches Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce will have, and how many receiving yards Kansas City wide receiver Tyreek Hill will gain.

On the San Francisco side, you can bet on whether quarterback Jimmy Garoppalo will throw for more or less than 247 yards, whether he'll throw more than one touchdown pass, and whether running back Raheem Mostert will score a rushing touchdown.

The props can get involved, though. Bets include which will be longer, the longest successful field goal or the longest caught pass. And there are reams of bets comparing the performances of two players against one another. Some bets also compare player performances in the Super Bowl to the performance of basketball or hockey players in games over the weekend.

Betting on the Super Bowl is supposed to be fun, and for most people, it is. But for others, compulsive gambling is a serious problem. For help, call 800-GAMBLER.

Follow Wayne Parry at <https://twitter.com/WayneParryAC>

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

China locked down 50 million people and has to keep them fed

By JOE McDONALD Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Carrying permits demanding “fast passage,” truck drivers rushed a 560-ton shipment of disinfectant from eastern China to Wuhan, the locked-down city of 11 million people at the center of a vast effort to contain a new viral disease.

Outside the metropolis in central China, the cargo was shifted to local trucks with drivers in masks and protective suits, part of a tightly controlled flow of food and other supplies through checkpoints that have blocked most access to Wuhan since Jan. 23.

As global anxiety about the new virus rises, authorities have blocked 50 million people from leaving Wuhan and nearby cities at the center of the outbreak. That in turn requires a massive effort to keep them supplied with food and other necessities.

“Wuhan is not an isolated island,” declared a state newspaper, the Yangtze Daily.

Few governments could attempt such drastic restrictions on a population bigger than South Korea’s or Australia’s. They are made possible by the ruling Communist Party’s extensive controls on society and experience combating the 2002-03 SARS epidemic.

Some trucks are allowed to leave the 17 locked-down cities to collect food. Photos in state media show them lined up at checkpoints, their drivers wearing face masks. Police, shrouded in white protective suits, examine the drivers for the virus’s telltale fever. Those without passes are turned back.

Schools, cinemas and restaurants are closed in Wuhan, an industrial center with a population 1 1/2 times that of New York City. To keep people at home and reduce chances for infection, subway and bus services are shut down and private vehicle use is banned in downtown areas.

The government of Hubei province, where all the cities are located, has promised adequate supplies of vegetables, rice, meat and medical supplies.

It said authorities were working with retailers to bring food from as far away as Yunnan province in the southwest and Hainan island in the South China Sea. A crackdown on hoarding and price-gouging by merchants was announced after food costs spiked.

“Please do not panic, do not hoard, so as not to cause waste,” said a government announcement.

China on Friday reported 9,692 confirmed cases of the virus, which can cause pneumonia and other severe respiratory symptoms. So far 213 have died.

The shipment of disinfectant last Saturday was moved by drivers from two trucking companies in the eastern province of Jiangsu, according to the manager of one of the companies, Huai’an Hazardous Goods Transport Co.

With official passes, the 18 teams of drivers cut the normal 20-hour travel time to 15 hours, according to the manager, Liu Hankang.

“Enterprises must take on this responsibility,” Liu said by phone.

The government has released no details of how it is enforcing travel curbs on smaller roads and villages on the outskirts of the vast locked-down area.

Residents contacted by phone said most supermarkets still have adequate food supplies.

“They can meet our needs for the time being,” said a 40-year-old father of two in Wuhan who would give only his surname, Cai.

Residents are wary of talking to reporters after authorities said eight doctors were punished in December for warning about the emergence of the virus.

Authorities can draw on an extensive surveillance network involving thousands of video cameras, smart-phone tracking, monitoring of social media and other technology developed with the help of Western tech companies to protect the party’s monopoly on power.

Hospitals are straining to cope with thousands of virus patients while doctors also treat other cases.

State media say police in protective gear are stationed at hospitals to separate people arriving with fevers and other possible virus symptoms from other patients.

Rui Zhong, a Wuhan native who lives in Washington, D.C., said that her mother’s elderly cousin died in the city in the past 10 days after a delay in the arrival of an ambulance.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 37 of 71

A 73-year-old man with a lung problem, he died on the way to the hospital, Zhong said.

"It's hard to know for sure: could he have been saved?" said Zhong, who works at the Woodrow Wilson Center. "But my family will always wonder."

The cause of death was never determined. "The doctors didn't look at it super-closely," she said. "He was cremated."

The city is racing to build a 1,000-bed hospital for virus patients. It is due to open Monday, 10 days after construction began. A second hospital with 1,500 beds is to open shortly after that.

Parents contacted by phone say their children, forced to stay home, are doing homework and watching TV.

A restaurant chef in Jingzhou, another Hubei city, said his 12-year-old son was getting restless.

"He wanted to go out, but I had to keep him home," said the chef, who would give only his surname, Nong.

Police in Jingzhou were stopping pedestrians on empty streets to check their temperature and ask their addresses, Nong said.

"We grow our own vegetables, but the stocks can last only for another 10 days or so," said Nong. "I guess the village committee will need to offer us supplies if we are still banned from going out."

Liu Xiaoran, a Wuhan University journalism student, said she and her parents had Lunar New Year dinner, China's most important family event of the year, with relatives over WeChat, a popular messaging service. She said her grandparents refuse to leave home or receive visitors.

Liu said one woman she knows begged for help online after four of her five family members were quarantined in three different hospitals. She asked for beds in the same hospital or else help traveling to the different facilities to look after them, a task made harder by Wuhan's closure of bus and subway service.

When she goes out, "I wear two layers of masks, try not to touch anywhere, keep a distance from others and disinfect with alcohol right after coming home," said Liu, 21. "I feel nervous, especially when I go somewhere with a lot of people, such as drugstores or supermarkets."

Other cities are imposing their own travel controls. Some apartment complexes in Beijing bar anyone but residents from entering. People in two villages on the Chinese capital's outskirts say they have set up their own barriers to prevent outsiders from entering.

The government of Shanghai, a global business center of 25 million people, has extended the end of the Lunar New Year holiday by 10 days to Feb. 9 to encourage the public to stay home and avoid spreading infection.

In Wuhan, public schools were ordered to start teaching online Feb. 10 after the new semester was postponed. Wuhan University is organizing online classes.

"For the healthy, it's like what you call a 'snow day,' staying inside," said a Wuhan University professor who asked not to be identified further for fear of retribution. "For the people that are struggling, the hospitals are under strain."

AP researchers Shanshan Wang and Yu Bing and video journalist Olivia Zhang in Beijing and writer Christina Larson in Washington, D.C., contributed to this story.

Indictment, a plan and a pardon: Israeli PM has a wild week

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — When Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu left the White House after the unveiling of President Donald Trump's Mideast plan, which hugely favors Israel, he and his entourage could barely contain their glee as they boasted of realizing their dream of swiftly annexing large swaths of the West Bank.

But by the time his plane had flown across the Atlantic Ocean, the mood had taken a downturn, with Netanyahu's annexation plan suddenly in question and an embarrassing criminal trial casting a cloud over his re-election hopes.

Netanyahu's sojourn to Moscow, to bring home an Israeli backpacker jailed on drug charges that the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 38 of 71

prime minister had convinced Russia to pardon, capped a roller-coaster five-day journey during which he was also formally indicted on corruption charges.

It's been quite a trip for Israel's longest-serving prime minister, who has portrayed himself as a master statesman as he fights for his political survival ahead of March 2 elections.

It began Sunday, with grand proclamations upon departure about the great mission he was on, and about "making history" with Trump. On Monday, he beamed alongside Trump in the Oval Office, flaunting their friendship and lavishing praise upon the American president.

On Tuesday, Netanyahu withdrew a request for immunity before parliament could reject it, triggering the official launch of his trial on charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust stemming from three long-running corruption cases. He will now be the first sitting prime minister to face a criminal trial.

Hours later, Trump announced a plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that overwhelmingly favors Israel and appeared to pave the way for immediate annexation of large swaths of the West Bank, including Israel's many settlements and the Jordan Valley.

Before an adoring audience of evangelical Christians and other supporters, he called Trump the "greatest friend that Israel has ever had in the White House," and compared the moment's significance to that of the birth of Israel in 1948.

In a lengthy briefing to journalists after the announcement, Netanyahu laid out a detailed 24-point presentation showcasing all the upsides for Israel and downplaying the heavily restricted notion of Palestinian statehood called for in the plan. He insisted that, at most, the Palestinians would be granted "limited sovereignty that depends on a long list of conditions," and vowed to bring his West Bank annexation plans to a vote at his next Cabinet meeting, as early as Sunday.

Visiting Israeli journalists from nationalistic and pro-Netanyahu media outlets could be seen dancing outside their Washington hotel in joy.

But on Wednesday, the tide began to change.

In a series of interviews, Trump's staunchly pro-Israel peace team appeared to tap the brakes on the race to annexation. U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, who days earlier had led Jewish prayer services aboard Netanyahu's plane, said a U.S.-Israeli committee would need to be formed to insure that any move matches up with the administration's "conceptual map."

"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."

Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and the architect of the plan, said Israel should wait until after the March 2 elections before annexing territory.

"Let's see what happens," he told GZERO Media. "The hope is that they'll wait until after the election and we'll work with them to try to come up with something."

Those comments were likely to stoke fears among Netanyahu's hard-line allies that the plan will only ever exist on paper.

The Americans appear to be treading cautiously in hopes of gaining international and Arab support for the proposal, which the Palestinians have adamantly rejected.

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

Annexation could spark an international backlash, and neighboring Jordan, seen as a key player in Middle East peace efforts, has already warned against it. It could also foreclose the possibility of a negotiated two-state solution. Benny Gantz, a former military chief and Netanyahu's main election rival, has also welcomed the plan but has warned against any "rash, irresponsible measures."

But a quick move to annex land would galvanize Netanyahu's hard-line base and shift the focus of the election from his legal woes to his diplomatic achievements.

Those were put on display again on Thursday, when he met with Vladimir Putin in Moscow a day after the Russian leader pardoned an Israeli tourist whose plight has been closely followed back home.

Naama Issachar, 26, was sentenced to 7 1/2 years in prison after authorities found a small amount of hashish in her bag during a transit stop in April as she returned from a trip to India. In Israel, many have linked her case to that of a jailed Russian hacker who was extradited to the U.S. against Moscow's wishes, casting her as a pawn in a struggle among world powers.

Putin pardoned her after months of lobbying by Netanyahu.

On Thursday, Netanyahu escorted his wife, Issachar and her mother to his plane on the frigid Moscow tarmac and flew back to Israel, where polls still show him locked in a virtual tie with Gantz ahead of the country's third election in less than a year.

Follow Aron Heller on Twitter at www.twitter.com/aronhellerap

Voters' 2nd choices could be decisive in close Iowa caucuses

By **STEVE PEOPLES** and **WILL WEISSERT** Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Democratic presidential candidates seeking victory in next week's Iowa caucuses are navigating a field that is so jumbled that voters' second choice could matter almost as much as their first, adding fresh uncertainty and confusion to the final days of the race.

Lower-polling candidates including Amy Klobuchar, Andrew Yang and Tom Steyer have been approached by multiple campaigns in recent days eager to form an alliance that could reshape Monday's election. Joe Biden's team has been in communication with lower-polling rivals, according to several people familiar with the conversations who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal strategy.

The former vice president's campaign dismisses such reports of potential deal-making as dramatized accounts of business as usual. But the delicate overtures are a test of the leading campaigns' ability to assemble a winning coalition and the capacity of second-tier candidates to stay relevant. And it could be decisive in determining who leaves Iowa with the momentum that will be needed to sustain a long campaign ahead.

"The second-place phenomenon, at least in Iowa, is not a bad thing at all," said Iowa state Sen. Zach Wahls, who supports Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

In contrast to a traditional election, the caucus system works like this: Voters gather at dozens of caucus locations across the state and start the night by pledging support for their preferred candidate. After the initial vote count is taken, voters backing candidates who earn less than 15% are free to shift to other candidates or go home.

While a dozen Democrats are still running for president, just four — Biden, Warren, Bernie Sanders and Pete Buttigieg — have consistently polled above the 15% threshold in Iowa. Still, any of the four could see their support fall short, depending on who shows up to caucus.

As is the case with Biden and others, Warren sees an opportunity to draw significant support from Klobuchar, who has not reached the 15% threshold in polls to date, even as the Minnesota senator's standing appears to have improved in recent weeks.

"It's certainly no secret that Sen. Warren ... has the highest favorables of anybody in the field within Democratic primary voters," Wahls said. "I can tell you anecdotally that she is the second choice of a lot of Klobuchar supporters."

Klobuchar's team, aware that she's viewed as a source of second-choice votes from several campaigns, downplayed the possibility of a potential deal when asked about conversations with rival campaigns.

"We've got no plans to cut any deals with anybody because we're going to be viable," Klobuchar campaign manager Justin Buoen told reporters on Thursday. "We've got no plans to tell our supporters what to do."

Klobuchar's Iowa adviser Norm Sterzenbach said the campaign was more focused on trying to win over supporters of other campaigns.

"Caucusgoers are going to go to their second choice because that's who they like, not because of anything we tell them to do," he said. "I just think it's a waste of energy for us to focus our time on trying to make deals."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 40 of 71

To say the situation is fluid would be an understatement.

Just four days before the Iowa contest, polling suggests that more than half of the state's likely Democratic voters are open to changing their minds.

Forty-five percent of all likely Democratic caucusgoers named a first choice but said they could be persuaded to support another candidate, and 13% did not indicate a first choice, according to the CNN/Des Moines Register poll conducted earlier this month.

At the same time, history holds few examples of final-days deals between rival campaigns that had a significant effect.

One may be in 2004, when North Carolina Sen. John Edwards and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich struck a deal to support each other. While Edwards was already surging at the time, the pact was more aimed at hurting former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean.

In the end, Edwards finished a strong second behind Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry and Kucinich finished a distant fifth. Dean finished a disappointing third.

Should history repeat itself in 2020, top-tier campaigns see major opportunity in Klobuchar, who appears to be on the rise yet has struggled to hit the viability threshold. They're also eyeing Tulsi Gabbard, Steyer and Yang, who have been mired in the single digits for months.

Yang acknowledged this week that multiple campaigns have reached out to his team about potential alliances.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, he said he's not planning to urge his supporters to head to a specific second choice if he doesn't make it past the first round of voting.

"Right now we have no guidance for our caucusgoers who don't find us to be viable," he said, downplaying his ability to direct his voters toward any specific candidate, even if he wanted to.

"The people that support my campaign are very diverse in their leanings," he added. "I frankly think I'd have a hard time getting them to do anything that they weren't naturally inclined to do."

Yang conceded that Sanders, if anyone, might be best-positioned to inherit his support. And there was anecdotal evidence suggesting Yang was right.

Victor Cornejo, a 45-year-old engineer who attended a Sanders campaign event in Iowa City, said he was still deciding between businessman Yang and Sanders. He guessed he may get the chance to caucus for both if the proceedings go multiple rounds.

"I like Andrew Yang because he has a different approach, and he sees an economic approach to the future. I like the fact that he's an outsider," Cornejo said. "Bernie has been around for a while, and there's some stability in that. And that actually brings some of the trust."

A Biden aide, meanwhile, privately acknowledged regular conversations with other campaigns, but downplayed reports that Biden was actively trying to cut any deals.

The aide, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share internal strategy, expressed confidence in Biden's ability to pull from other candidates and pointed to polls suggesting some overlap with Klobuchar and Buttigieg.

While Biden would not confirm his own campaign had conferred with the Yang or Klobuchar teams, he acknowledged that horse-trading is routine in the caucus process.

"Everybody's looking and says, OK, if your guy doesn't win or your person doesn't win, who are you gonna go with?" Biden said in Iowa on Thursday.

Sanders' state director Misty Rebik also de-emphasized efforts to woo rival campaigns.

"We are a movement of vote your conscience. We don't have a strategy of telling people to 'Go here. Go there,'" Rebik said. "And, in the off chance that that doesn't work out for us, we expect our voters to do what they do, trust their gut and go for their second choice."

Associated Press writers Hannah Fingerhut in Washington and Thomas Beaumont in Des Moines, Iowa, contributed to this report.

Trump to create post to focus on solely human trafficking

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump plans to expand the White House domestic policy office by appointing an individual to focus exclusively on combating human trafficking, The Associated Press has learned.

Trump is expected to create the position by executive order Friday after he addresses a human trafficking summit at the White House.

A candidate has yet to be identified for the new post on the Domestic Policy Council, according to a White House official, who added that Trump wants to fill the slot quickly with someone detailed from another government agency. The White House official was not authorized to discuss the president's plans before his Friday announcement and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Trump has sought to elevate human trafficking since taking office by speaking publicly about the issue and inviting reporters into his White House meetings with victims and anti-trafficking advocates.

A partner in the effort is Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter and senior adviser. During a visit to Atlanta this month, she compared trafficking to "modern-day slavery" and said the White House is committed to ending it.

Ivanka Trump is also scheduled to speak at Friday's summit. She said Thursday in a statement to the AP that the coming executive order will provide additional resources to combat human trafficking.

"From funding for prevention education programs, to enhanced intelligence-level coordination, to fighting child pornography, to a new full-time position within his White House's Domestic Policy Council, the president is using all tools at his disposal to ensure that the end of modern-day slavery becomes a reality."

Under the executive order, according to the White House official, the State Department will be tasked with creating a website to serve as a clearinghouse where law enforcement officials, victims, advocates and others can get information on government-wide efforts to combat human trafficking.

Federal departments and agencies will also be asked to propose legislative and executive actions to help law enforcement officials track the sharing - in real time - of child sexual abuse material on the internet.

The Justice and Homeland Security departments will also be directed to work with the Education Department to fund prevention education programs for the nation's schools.

Some groups criticized the summit. Other groups that have been invited said they will not attend.

Eric Schwartz, president of Refugees International, said in a statement that the Trump administration has pursued policies that endanger trafficking victims by chipping away at their legal protections. Schwartz cited an increase in the denial rate for special visas that allow trafficking victims to legalize their status, access services and seek punishment for their abusers.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

Afghans will need billions more in aid, as US looks to leave

By **RAHIM FAIEZ** Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghanistan will need vast amounts of foreign funding to keep its government afloat through 2024, a U.S. agency said Friday, even as foreign donors are increasingly angry over the cost of debilitating corruption and the U.S. seeks a peace deal with Taliban to withdraw its troops from the country.

International money pays for roughly 75% of all of Afghanistan's costs while government revenue covers barely a quarter of Afghan public expenditures. The Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction, which issues reports quarterly to U.S. Congress, monitors all U.S. spending in the 18-year war in Afghanistan, America's longest war.

The agency's latest report was sharply critical of the Afghan government's efforts to curb corruption, saying it is one of the biggest concerns among frustrated donors.

President Ashraf Ghani's administration "is more interested in checking off boxes for the international

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 42 of 71

community than in actually uprooting its corruption problem," the report said, referring to the Afghan government's failing anti-graft drive.

Ghani's future is uncertain as final results of last year's presidential election have yet to be announced, though the preliminary results gave Ghani the win. His main rival, Abdullah Abdullah, who serves as the country's chief executive in a fragile national unity government with Ghani, has claimed fraud.

Afghanistan ranked last in the Asia-Pacific region for corruption, a global watchdog said earlier in January. According to Transparency International, Afghanistan's global ranking last year — at 173 of 180 countries it surveyed — was the worst since the group began ranking the country in 2005.

Even as the international community is paying billions of dollars annually, the poverty rate in Afghanistan is climbing. In 2012, 37% of Afghans were listed below the poverty rate, surviving on less than \$1 a day. Today that figure has risen to 55% of Afghans.

According to the SIGAR report for the last quarter of 2019, international donors, led by Washington, provide the Afghan government with \$8.5 billion annually to cover everything from security to education and health care, as well as economic reconstruction. The United States is paying \$4.2 billion yearly just for Afghanistan's security and defense forces.

SIGAR added that the overall value of opiates available for export in Afghanistan in 2018 — estimated to be between \$1.1 billion and \$2.1 billion — far outstripped the total value of all the country's legal exports at \$875 million.

The report's findings come ahead of a U.N.-hosted international donors conference this year that could be critical for Afghanistan's future. In 2016, world donors meeting in Brussels pledged \$15 billion for Afghanistan.

The U.S. agency said the problem of corruption should be the central issue in the 2020 donor conference. It recommended that international donors use its Afghan anti-corruption audits as a guide to directing funding more effectively, as well as monitoring actual results and exerting constructive influence on the Afghan government.

"Working together, the international community and its Afghan partners can stem the rot of corruption in Afghanistan. But it will take a greater commitment than we have seen so far to make transformative change," the report said.

The U.S. agency's report also documented an uptick in violence in Afghanistan's war, as well as a drop in the number of missions completed independently by internationally-funded Afghan forces.

Casualties for Afghan troops increased slightly from May through October 2019, compared to the same period the previous year, it said. There were also more attacks against Afghan security forces by militants than in any other three month period since the agency began keeping statistics in 2010.

The Taliban today control or hold sway over roughly half of Afghanistan, staging near-daily attacks. They usually target Afghan and U.S. forces, as well as government officials and those seen as linked to the government, but scores of civilians die in the crossfire.

The report added that Afghan special forces conducted fewer ground operations than in any other quarter last year. Only 31% of those missions were completed independently, without U.S. or coalition support. Less than half of all Afghan security operations last year were completed independently, compared to 55% in 2018.

The Taliban and the U.S. are currently holding peace talks in the Gulf Arab state of Qatar, where the Taliban maintain a political office. The negotiations have become bogged down over agreeing on how to end or substantially reduce hostilities.

A reduction in violence would allow the U.S. and Taliban to sign a final agreement, which in turn would open the way for America to bring its troops home, and for starting broader Afghan negotiations over the country's post-war future.

Roughly \$132.49 billion has been appropriated for Afghanistan relief and reconstruction since 2002, SIGAR says.

___Associated Press writer Kathy Gannon in Islamabad contributed to this report.

Fever alarms, paranoia as masked passengers fly from China

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ, JOSEPH PISANI and RACHEL LERMAN AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) —

In Bangladesh's biggest airport, workers held up digital thermometers to passengers' heads. A beeping alarm sounded as a passenger walking through a thermal scanner registered a fever.

On a plane ride from Shanghai to New York, nobody spoke for fear of spreading germs as flight attendants donning face masks served drinks to similarly-clad passengers.

Airline passengers making their way to and from China are navigating an eerie scene as officials around the globe work to contain a new, fast-spreading coronavirus. China has reported more than 7,800 cases, including 170 deaths, and the World Health Organization has declared the outbreak a global emergency.

Several major airlines, including Air France, British Airways and Scandinavian Airlines have suspended service to China. But U.S.-based United Airlines, American Airlines and Delta Air Lines are still flying, though they have curtailed operations as passengers canceled trips. The pilots' union at American Airlines sued Thursday to block the carrier from flying to China because of the virus.

One woman who flew 14 hours from Shanghai to New York changed her white face mask every four hours to make sure it was clean.

"It was a bit gloomy," said Joe Chang, a tech worker who flew from Shanghai to San Francisco after visiting his family for the Lunar New Year.

In some cases, fear is turning into paranoia. On one flight headed to China from Amsterdam, passengers protested when they realized a man from Wuhan — the epicenter of the outbreak — was on the plane, said Chris Van Heesch, a 50-year old from the Netherlands. In the end, he was allowed to fly.

At Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Bangladesh, passengers arriving from Beijing on Wednesday walked through thermal scanners to check for fevers. As their disembodied faces appeared on a nearby screen, most of their heads looked green, indicating a normal body temperature, but the machine beeped loudly when one man's forehead appeared red. He was shuttled to the side where a woman took his temperature with a device shaped like a bar code scanner. "One hundred one degrees," she called out.

Meanwhile, an airport worker pushed health cards into departing passengers' hands urging them to contact health authorities if they have a fever within 14 days of arrival.

"The number of infected people in Beijing is relatively low — over 100. But it is much higher in Wuhan," said Mohammed Raihan, a Bangladeshi student who attends Capital Medical University in Beijing. "That's why I've come back. All the schools and universities have been shut down indefinitely."

A similar scene played out in Kathmandu, Nepal, where masked passengers were greeted with large, illustrated signs imploring them to visit the health desk if they have symptoms including high fever, muscle pain, headaches or hemorrhaging.

Health experts said Thursday there's significant evidence the virus is spreading among people in China and were concerned that in other countries — including the United States, France, Japan, Germany, Canada, South Korea and Vietnam — where there have also been isolated cases of human-to-human transmission. The new virus comes from a large family of coronaviruses, some of which cause nothing worse than a cold.

Flight cleaning crews are taking extra steps to protect themselves. Crews already fully disinfect arm rests, window shades and other hard surfaces after international flights on United Airlines. But if a plane carried a passenger with suspicious symptoms, the cleaning crew will don face shields, goggles and long-sleeved gowns while they clean with a disinfectant approved by the Centers for Disease Control, said United spokesman Charlie Hobart. A plane would be taken out of service and fumigated if a passenger had a confirmed case of coronavirus, he said.

John F. Kennedy International Airport resembled a hospital corridor where everyone from passengers to luggage handlers wore face masks.

Jarvan Lee, a 25-year-old student from New York, came to JFK to pick up family friends arriving from Beijing wearing a black mouth cover with two air filters. He bought it five days ago from Amazon for \$30 and plans to wear it at the mall or anywhere else he's around a lot of people. "I'm worried," he said of

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 44 of 71

the virus.

Helen Lewis, who pushes passengers in wheelchairs to their flights, began wearing gloves Sunday and asks coughing passengers to cover up their mouths. "You don't know who you're carrying," said the 62-year-old from New York.

Steve Rehkemper, CEO of Chicago-based Top Secret Toys, says he's suspending all trips to China for now. He visited c, and as soon as he arrived in Hong Kong from the mainland on Jan. 14, he and all the other travelers had to have their temperatures taken.

"I didn't get too excited, I knew I didn't have a temperature," he added.

Bill Chen, who arrived in San Francisco from Shanghai on Wednesday, said his temperature was quickly screened at the Shanghai airport before he departed. He also filled out a health questionnaire that asked if he had traveled to Wuhan or had any contact with someone who had been in the city.

"I feel a little bit sorry for people traveling on the plane," Chen said. "People have to be nervous in some way."

Lerman reported from San Francisco. AP Writers Anne D'Innocenzio in New York, David Koenig in Dallas, Joael Calupitan in Manila and Terry Chea in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Mexico: Forest guardian suffered head trauma and drowning

By MARK STEVENSON Associated Press

OCAMPO, Mexico (AP) — An anti-logging activist prominent in efforts to protect a Mexican forest where monarch butterflies spend the winter suffered a head trauma as well as drowning, authorities announced Thursday night, potentially adding weight to the fears of family and other activists that he was murdered.

Even before the announcement, relatives of Homero Gómez González speculated his death wasn't accidental and said bad things are happening to human rights and environmental activists in Mexico, and people are afraid.

"Something strange is happening, because they're finishing off all the activists, the people who are doing something for society," the dead man's brother, Amado Gomez, said Thursday at the funeral.

The body was discovered Wednesday in a holding pond near the mountain forest reserve that Gómez González long protected. Michoacan state prosecutors had said a few hours later that an initial review indicated a drowning and found no signs of trauma, but their latest statement said more detailed autopsy results produced evidence of a head injury.

Authorities gave no other information on the injury and did not say how it might have been inflicted. They said an investigation continued, suggesting the case wasn't considered an accident.

The threadbare clothes of the mourners and the few candles and simple floral arrangements at Gómez González's funeral underlined the tough background of the struggle being played out in the butterflies' winter nesting grounds, where the creatures shelter in the tall pine and fir forests.

Grinding poverty and gang violence fuel twin threats to the butterfly reserve — illegal logging and encroaching plantations of avocados. The latter is the only legal crop that provides a decent income in this region.

For the last decade, Gómez González fought to keep loggers out of the reserve, leading marches, demonstrations and anti-logging patrols. He tried to persuade the government to increase the meager stipend that local farmers receive for preserving trees.

He also worked to convince about 260 fellow communal land owners that they should replant trees on land cleared for corn plots. By local accounts, he managed to reforest about 150 hectares (370 acres) of previously cleared land.

Like other places in the world, increasingly scarce water also plays a role in the conflict. Gómez González and other communal land owners had asked the nearby town of Angangueo for payments in return for water they receive from clear mountain streams that survive only because the forests are protected.

His death has sparked fears among fellow who didn't have his education and public speaking skills.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 45 of 71

"A lot of the communal land owners fear that with his death, the forests are finished," said Amado Gómez. "I would like to ask the authorities to do their job and do more to protect activists like my brother, because lately in Mexico a lot of activists have died," he said. "With his death, not only my family lost a loved one; but the whole world, and the monarch butterfly and the forests lost, too."

International organizations have drawn attention to attacks on environmental activists and conservationists in Mexico in recent years.

London-based Global Witness counted 15 killings of environmental activists in Mexico in 2017 and 14 in 2018. In an October 2019 report, Amnesty International said that 12 had been killed in the first nine months of that year.

On Thursday, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador described Gómez González's death as "regrettable" and "painful."

"It's part of what leads us to apply ourselves more every day to guarantee peace and tranquility in the country," López Obrador said. There were 35,588 homicides in Mexico in 2019, a new record, but a total that rose at a lower annual rate than recent years.

The activist's relatives had reported him missing Jan. 14, after not seeing him since the previous evening at a traditional celebration.

His body was found in a small agricultural reservoir in Ocampo, state prosecutor Adrián López Solís said. The pond is approximately 32 feet square and 20 feet deep, but only about half full of water, and is on land adjoining property where Gómez González attended the party.

Prosecutors said Thursday night that robbery appeared not to be a potential motive, since almost \$500 in cash was found on his body. López Solís also said earlier that relatives had received a ransom call demanding money, but an investigation determined it was not credible and just an attempt to extort money.

While the circumstances of the death remained unclear, Greenpeace Mexico issued a statement calling it a "murder."

"We condemn the fact that defending the land, natural resources and biodiversity converts activists into targets for threats, persecution and the cowardly act of taking their lives," the group said.

Activists in Mexico said the death could be related to disputes over illegal logging, water or income from visitors' fees to the El Rosario butterfly reserve. Gómez González was the head of the reserve's management council.

López Obrador raised criminality surrounding illegal logging. "It's tied to criminal organizations and we're working on this," he said.

Millions of monarchs come to the forests of Michoacan and other nearby areas after making the 3,400-mile (5,500-kilometer) migration from the United States and Canada. They need healthy tree cover to protect them from rain and cold weather.

Mexico has clamped down on illegal logging, which was once a major threat to the reserves but which has fallen to about one-third last year's level. But there have been reports of increased "salvage" logging of supposedly sick trees.

Orley Taylor, an ecology professor at the University of Kansas and director of Monarch Watch, said it wasn't immediately clear what impact Gómez González's death would have on conservation efforts in the reserve.

"There are increasing pressures on the forest from both the illegal loggers and the avocado growers and possibly the gangs that extort protection from various parties in the region," Taylor said. "This dynamic is widely known, but how to deal with these threats to the forests, residents and monarchs will be a challenge for the (Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve), its residents and local and regional authorities.

Biden, Buttigieg amplify Sanders criticism before Iowa vote

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE and THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

WAUKEE, Iowa (AP) — Pete Buttigieg and Joe Biden stepped up their criticisms of Bernie Sanders on Thursday, as moderates are under growing pressure to dull any momentum the progressive senator may gain heading into next week's Iowa caucuses.

Biden, a former vice president, was blunt when asked by reporters to contrast himself with Sanders, who has long identified as a democratic socialist and was elected as an independent senator from Vermont.

"I'm a Democrat," Biden told reporters. "He's not a registered Democrat, to the best of my knowledge. And Bernie has a different view — I mean everything I've suggested to you that I want to do, I've figured out how to pay for it."

Sanders signed a loyalty pledge with the party last year that acknowledges he's a member of the Democratic Party and would serve as one if elected president.

Buttigieg, meanwhile, bemoaned Sanders' demands for adherence to progressive ideals as "a kind of politics that says you've got to go all the way here and nothing else counts."

The tougher talk comes as a greater urgency sets in among moderates in the race to prevent Sanders from notching early wins in Iowa and New Hampshire. That could give him momentum heading into later contests that will decide who wins the Democratic nomination.

The pressure is mounting as moderates struggle to unite behind a clear standard-bearer. While Biden remains atop the field in many national polls, his support has slipped some in the early voting states. Buttigieg and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who have framed themselves as Midwestern consensus builders, have had bigger crowds than Biden across Iowa over the past week and believe they have an opportunity to peel off some of his support.

As the moderates struggle to coalesce, they're also attacking each other, increasingly turning the Democratic primary into a multi-pronged battle.

In addition to his critique of Sanders, Buttigieg dismissed what he characterized as Biden's assertion that it's not time to "take a risk on someone new." That's an implicit argument that the 38-year-old former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, doesn't have the experience needed to be president.

"History has shown us that the biggest risk we could take with a very important election coming up is to look to the same Washington playbook and recycle the same arguments and expect that to work against a president like Donald Trump, who is new in kind," Buttigieg said.

Biden began the day focused on contrasting himself mostly against Trump, arguing, "I don't believe we are the dark, angry nation that Donald Trump sees in his tweets in the middle of the night."

But he couldn't ignore his Democratic rivals entirely. He later issued a warning to voters, saying "we can't let this Democratic race slide into a negative treatment of one another."

"We have differences," Biden continued. "We can argue about these differences. We have to be able, when we come out of this, to unite the party."

Under prodding from reporters during a brief stop for ice cream in Pella, Iowa, Biden responded to Buttigieg's criticisms.

"I don't know what Pete's talking about. He's a good guy, and I'm not gonna get into — he must be deciding things are getting a little tight," he said with a smile.

Asked what he saw as his biggest contrast with Buttigieg, however, Biden noted, "I've gotten more than 8,600 votes in my life" — a reference to the fact that Buttigieg won his 2015 mayoral race with just over 8,500 votes.

Buttigieg has hesitated until now to criticize his opponents by name, though he did repeatedly question Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren last fall on how she planned to finance a policy to provide health insurance to all Americans.

And while his pivot to associating Biden and Sanders specifically with the "arguments from before" was noticeable, Buttigieg's aides signaled that a shift to a more direct contrast between the candidates was long-planned. The final thrust, the aides said, is to turn doubt about his experience on its head by making

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 47 of 71

the better-known candidates seem risky.

For Biden's part, he's long been reluctant to engage with his opponents, hoping to focus largely on drawing a general election contrast with Trump based on his temperament and character. The campaign believes that approach highlights some of Biden's main advantages with voters: that he's seen by many as the strongest Trump challenger and that voters can connect with Biden on a personal, emotional level.

Iowa Democratic strategist Matt Paul, who ran Hillary Clinton's Iowa campaign in 2016, said he was "surprised" it's taken the candidates this long to go after one another by name — and he warned that Buttigieg's comments could backfire.

"I've actually been surprised, with this many people in the field, with a race as undefined and as fluid as it's been, that others didn't try and find that contrast earlier. It's dangerous to roll out contrasts this late because you do have to be careful, and in Iowa — especially if it gets personal — there tends to be blowback," he said.

Indeed, some voters at Biden's events said they didn't like the negativity among Democratic candidates. Patricia Cooke, a 75-year-old retiree from Newton who had been deciding between Biden and Buttigieg but leaning towards Biden, compared Buttigieg's comments to when Warren sparred with Sanders on stage at the last debate, which she said made Warren look "small."

"I don't like that. It just doesn't make them look good. They should focus on Trump," she said.

Beaumont reported from Decorah, Iowa.

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

Estranged husband accused of killing Jennifer Dulos dies

By DAVE COLLINS Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A man charged with murdering his wife who went missing amid a contentious divorce case died Thursday, his lawyer said.

Fotis Dulos, 52, had been hospitalized since Tuesday when he was found at his home in Farmington, Connecticut, following an apparent suicide attempt.

"It's been a truly horrific day for the family filled with difficult decisions, medical tests and meeting the requirements to determine death," attorney Norm Pattis said.

"To those who contend that Mr. Dulos' death reflects a consciousness of guilt, we say no," he added. "We say it was more a conscience overborne with the weight of a world that was too busy to listen and wanted a story more than it wanted the truth."

Dulos, a luxury home builder originally from Greece, was accused of killing Jennifer Dulos, who has not been seen since she dropped their five children off at school in May in New Canaan. Her body has not been found despite extensive searches. Fotis Dulos had denied any role in her disappearance.

The children, who ranged in age from 8 to 13 when their mother vanished, are in the custody of their maternal grandmother in New York City.

"This is a horrific tragedy all around," said Carrie Luft, a spokeswoman for the family of Jennifer Dulos.

Dulos insisted he was innocent in a note found near him, according to a court motion filed by his lawyers Thursday. In the note recovered by police officers, Dulos "declared his innocence of the infamous and heinous crimes that the state has accused him of and claimed his lawyers have the evidence to prove it," his lawyers wrote in the filing asking a judge to order the state to preserve the note and other evidence found at the home.

On the day Fotis Dulos was found unresponsive, he had been facing an emergency bond hearing where he could have been sent back to jail. The company that originally posted the \$6 million bond had learned that two properties offered as collateral were subject to foreclosure and a third was overvalued.

Police officers who went to check on Dulos because he was late for the hearing saw through a garage window that he was in medical distress. Emergency responders forced their way into the garage and

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 48 of 71

medics performed CPR for about 30 minutes; he was taken to a hospital by ambulance after a pulse was discovered, Farmington police said Thursday. A lawyer for Dulos, and others, initially said he had died before saying a pulse had been found.

Dulos was eventually transferred to the Jacobi Medical Center in New York City for treatment.

Fotis Dulos was arrested Jan. 7 on murder and kidnapping charges, capping a lengthy investigation in which he emerged early as the primary suspect.

Warrants released last summer, when Dulos was charged initially with evidence tampering and hindering prosecution, said that he and a girlfriend were seen on video surveillance driving in Hartford around the time Jennifer Dulos was reported missing. The man was seen tossing garbage bags into more than 30 trash bins in the area that were later determined to have items with Jennifer Dulos' blood on them.

Items in the garbage bags included clothing belonging to Jennifer Dulos and plastic zip ties that later tested positive for her DNA.

In filings in the two-year divorce proceedings, Jennifer Dulos said she was worried for her safety and that of the couple's children.

In the arrest warrants, police suggested a possible financial motive, saying Fotis Dulos was \$7 million in debt and would have had some access to the children's trust funds if Jennifer Dulos died. Fotis Dulos denied that allegation.

Police allege Fotis Dulos lay in wait at Jennifer Dulos' home in New Canaan for her to return after dropping the children off. Authorities say Fotis Dulos attacked the woman in her garage, leaving behind a bloody crime scene, and drove off with her body.

Dulos had pleaded not guilty to the charges. Pattis said the defense team will continue to seek a trial to clear his name.

"We intend to proceed on as if he were alive to vindicate him," Pattis said.

Fotis Dulos' former girlfriend, Michelle Troconis, and his friend, attorney Kent Mawhinney, are both charged with conspiracy to commit murder. Police said they helped Fotis Dulos try to cover up the killing, including by creating bogus alibis.

Associated Press writers Michael Melia in Hartford and Pat Eaton-Robb in Storrs contributed to this report.

Commerce secretary: China virus could bring jobs back to US

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross suggested Thursday that the viral outbreak in China might offer an unexpected benefit for the U.S. economy: It could encourage American manufacturers in China to return to the United States.

"I think it will help to accelerate the return of jobs to North America. Some to U.S., probably some to Mexico as well," Ross told Fox Business Network.

The new virus, from the coronavirus family, has paralyzed business in China. The industrial hub of Wuhan and other Chinese cities are on lockdown. China has reported more than 7,700 cases and 170 deaths.

The crisis has also begun to ripple through U.S. companies with operations in China. Apple CEO Tim Cook has said that the company's suppliers in China have been forced to delay reopening factories that closed for the Lunar New Year holiday. More than half of Starbucks' stores in China are now closed. McDonald's has closed several hundred restaurants in China.

Ross emphasized that he didn't "want to talk about a victory lap over a very unfortunate, very malignant disease."

He added, though, that "the fact is, it does give businesses yet another thing to consider when they go through their review of their supply chain."

Even before the viral outbreak, many U.S. and other foreign companies had been rethinking their presence in China and considering their options for relocating elsewhere, possibly elsewhere in Asia. That is partly because President Donald Trump has imposed tariffs on \$360 billion in Chinese imports in a war

over Beijing's economic policies and partly because Chinese labor and other costs have been rising.

But skeptics doubt that many American companies with deep roots in China might abandon the country purely over the virus. For one thing, no one knows how long the viral outbreak will last or how much damage it may inflict. And it takes significant time for companies to choose suppliers or locations for their factories.

Rosemary Coates, whose Blue Silk Consulting firm helps companies make such decisions, said it was "ridiculous" to think the viral outbreak would result in a significant return of business to the United States.

"You can't snap your fingers," she said. "It can take 18 months or two years to find another supplier. It isn't easy. It's complicated."

Wuhan, a center of China's steel industry, has attracted General Motors and many other foreign manufacturing giants.

"You can't just say General Motors is going to pick up and move away," Coates said. "They have a manufacturing plant there and expertise there. Their supply chain runs through there."

In fact, U.S. direct investment in China, which includes factories, continued to rise even after the SARS outbreak disrupted the Chinese economy in 2003. And labor costs will continue to remain far higher in the United States than in China and other Asian countries such as Vietnam.

"Companies that are leaving China are not coming to the U.S.," said Coates, who is also executive director of the Reshoring Institute, a nonprofit that researches issues surrounding corporate decisions on whether to return to the United States. "They're going to other Asian countries If low cost is the only goal, then the U.S. is not the answer."

After Ross' comments drew criticism, the Commerce Department issued a statement: "As Secretary Ross made clear, the first step is to bring the virus under control and help the victims of this disease," it said. "It is also important to consider the ramifications of doing business with a country that has a long history of covering up real risks to its own people and the rest of the world."

Asked about Ross' comments, Larry Kudlow, Trump's top economic adviser, declined to endorse the notion that the U.S. economy stands to benefit from China's health crisis.

"This is not about trade, jobs or any of that," Kudlow told reporters. He added: "The president has a lot of compassion for the Chinese situation. The threat of large numbers of people dying is a terrible thing. We just want to help."

Associated Press writer Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

Ginni Rometty, 1st female CEO at IBM, to step down in April

ARMONK, N.Y. (AP) — Ginni Rometty, the first female CEO in IBM's century-long history, is leaving the helm in April.

Rometty, 62, will remain IBM's executive chairwoman until the end of the year. Her departure, announced Thursday, caps nearly 40 years with a technology giant famous for its conservative corporate culture. Rometty became IBM CEO eight years ago after previously overseeing sales and marketing.

As of this month, Rometty was one of 29 female CEOs leading S&P 500 companies, according to data from Catalyst, a nonprofit for women in business. That's less than 6%.

IBM said the company's commitment to diversity and inclusion advanced under Rometty's leadership. This includes extending parental leave and making it easier for women to return to work after taking time off to care for children.

IBM said in a statement that Rometty "reinvented more than 50% of IBM's portfolio" during her tenure, building a \$21 billion cloud business while also advancing the company's initiatives in artificial intelligence, quantum computing and blockchain technology.

Arvind Krishna will take over as CEO starting April 6. He has been IBM's senior vice president for cloud computing and cognitive software and also has a long career at the company.

IBM has been trying to revitalize its business to become a leader in cloud technology. Cloud computing, in which services are delivered over the internet from remote computers, has become a growing portion

of IBM's revenue. But the company has been overshadowed by top cloud rivals Amazon, Microsoft and Google in competing to sell its internet-based computing services to businesses.

In a risky effort to catch up to the competition, IBM spent \$34 billion to buy North Carolina-based software company Red Hat last year. It was the biggest acquisition in IBM's century-long history -- one which the company says Krishna was a "principal architect" in making happen.

IBM is naming Red Hat CEO James Whitehurst as IBM's president, also starting April 6. Rometty had been both CEO and president.

Venezuela's Guaidó angles for Trump meeting at end of trip

By SCOTT SMITH Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó wraps up an international tour with a rally in Miami on Super Bowl weekend with the looming question whether the opposition leader can score an important meeting with President Donald Trump.

Guaidó's ability to win face time with Trump in a symbolically important meeting will test the young political leader's standing with his most important international ally.

"If Trump does not meet with Guaidó, that would raise serious questions about the administration's continuing commitment to Venezuela's interim president," said Michael Shifter, president of the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue think tank. "It might well be interpreted that Trump is hedging on Guaidó."

With his support down at home, Guaidó launched the second year of his so-far unsuccessful campaign to remove President Nicolás Maduro by defying a travel ban and slipping out of Venezuela seeking to shore up backing from leaders in Colombia, across Europe and Canada.

Venezuela has been a top priority in Latin America for the Trump administration, which was a year ago the first among nearly 60 governments to throw their weight behind Guaidó. U.S. officials called Maduro a "dictator," and hit the state-run Venezuelan oil firm PDVSA with sanctions among other financial measures designed to push out the socialist leader.

However, Maduro remains in control, having faced down a coup attempt, a brief renewal of mass anti-government protests and U.S. sanctions.

At various stops on his international trip, Guaidó has met with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and White House adviser Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter, but he hasn't yet gotten to the U.S. president.

He missed Trump at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, arriving a day after the U.S. president left. The two will both be in Florida this weekend, but it is unclear whether Guaidó is on the guest list for Trump's Super Bowl party at his Mar-a-Lago club — or invited to any other meetings.

A Trump-Guaidó meeting is under consideration and would likely take place this weekend in south Florida, according to two people, including a senior U.S. official. The official and another person familiar with the discussions spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the U.S. president's plans.

Shifter said the lack of a Trump-Guaidó session would demoralize the Venezuelan opposition that has counted on Washington for unwavering support. It would also be puzzling to U.S. allies like Colombia and Brazil, which have worked in concert with the U.S. in fully backing Guaidó, he said.

Guaidó has not delivered the change in Venezuela that the Trump administration and the country's opposition expected, but he is still Venezuela's most popular political figure, Shifter said.

"Trump may be frustrated and believe he was misled on Venezuela," Shifter said. "But there is little cost in meeting with Guaidó as the democratic struggle enters a new, very difficult, phase."

Guaidó emerged from the opposition in January 2019 to become the first viable challenger in years to Maduro, the hand-chosen successor of the late charismatic leader Hugo Chávez. The economy continues to shrink after two decades of socialist rule, despite Venezuela holding the world's largest oil reserves.

The political and social crisis is driving mass migration as Venezuelans abandon a country with shortages of reliable water, food, electricity, gasoline and medical care, among basic services.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 51 of 71

Guaidó claimed presidential powers as leader of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, vowing before cheering masses in Caracas' streets to overthrow Maduro and restore democracy. However, his plan hitched on flipping the military's loyalty from Maduro, something that hasn't happened.

Maduro today appears emboldened. Armed civilian groups loyal to the president patrol the streets on motorcycles, blocking Guaidó and allied lawmakers from entering their legislative hall. Intelligence police occupied Guaidó's office space after he left on his foreign tour.

"The biggest clown ever in Venezuelan or world politics declared himself as president," Maduro said in a celebratory address on the anniversary of Guaidó claim to power. "Who the hell elected you?"

At the time, Guaidó was in Europe posing for photos with world leaders including British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. In Canada, he met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Guaidó wrote an op-ed published Thursday in the Miami Herald saying he was in the U.S. He thanked Trump, U.S. lawmakers and their counterparts in Europe and throughout the Americas for all they have done for Venezuela.

"They have helped Venezuela in our time of greatest need, and no Venezuelan will ever forget that," he wrote. "Their commitment has been extraordinary, but on behalf of our people, I must ask for more."

Guaidó's planned rally Saturday in Miami is expected to draw a large number of Venezuelans in the biggest diaspora of expatriates living in the United States. It's also a politically important swing-state for Trump.

Guaido might then make the risky move of returning home, although his team has not released details of this plans.

He completed a similar international tour a year ago, returning without hassles on a commercial flight that landed in Venezuela's main airport outside Caracas. A coalition of allied foreign ambassadors greeted him in a show of solidarity.

Risa Grais-Targow, a Venezuela analyst for the Eurasia Group, said aggression by Maduro against the opposition in recent weeks — such as blocking them from their congressional meeting hall — shows Maduro is pushing the limits to see if the international community is still watching.

"There's a potential for Maduro to be more aggressive toward Guaidó," Grais-Targow said. "It seems to me he's feeling much more confident in his position today than he was, certainly, six months ago." _____

Scott Smith on Twitter: @ScottSmithAP

Associated Press writer Joshua Goodman contributed to this story from Bogota, Colombia.

Dating apps face US inquiry over underage use, sex offenders

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A House subcommittee is investigating popular dating services such as Tinder and Bumble for allegedly allowing minors and sex offenders to use their services.

Bumble, Grindr, The Meet Group and the Match Group, which owns such popular services as Tinder, Match.com and OkCupid, are the current targets of the investigation by the U.S. House Oversight and Reform subcommittee on economic and consumer policy.

In separate letters Thursday to the companies, the subcommittee is seeking information on users' ages, procedures for verifying ages, and any complaints about assaults, rape or the use of the services by minors. It is also asking for the services' privacy policies and details on what users see when they review and agree to the policies. It also seeks information on what data is collected on people, including sexual orientation, drug use and political views.

Although the minimum age for using internet services is typically 13 in the U.S., dating services generally require users to be at least 18 because of concerns about sexual predators.

"Our concern about the underage use of dating apps is heightened by reports that many popular free dating apps permit registered sex offenders to use them, while the paid versions of these same apps screen out registered sex offenders," Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, the Illinois Democrat who heads the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 52 of 71

subcommittee, said in a statement. "Protection from sexual predators should not be a luxury confined to paying customers."

Match Group said it uses "every tool possible" to keep minors and bad actors off its services and continues to invest in technology to keep users safe. In an emailed statement, the company said the problem was broader and requires other parties, including app stores that know who their users are, "to do their part as well."

Match added that the national sex offender registry needs to be updated so that perpetrators' digital footprints can be tracked and blocked by social media and dating services.

Grindr and The Meet Group did not respond to messages for comment on Thursday. Bumble had no immediate comment.

Besides safety issues, the investigation also seeks to address concerns about data the services request to make matches. Such information may include sexual orientation, gender identity, political views, and drug, alcohol and tobacco use.

The subcommittee cited a report by a Norwegian consumer group this month that found that dating apps including Grindr, OkCupid and Tinder leak personal information to advertising tech companies in possible violation of European data privacy laws. The Norwegian Consumer Council said it found "serious privacy infringements" in its analysis of how shadowy online ad companies track and profile smartphone users.

In response to that report, Match had said that it shares information with third parties only when it is "deemed necessary to operate its platform" with third party apps. The company said it considers the practice in line with all European and U.S. regulations.

AP exclusive: Law firm dumps Maduro official amid outcry

By JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press Writer

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A U.S. law firm that was hired for \$12.5 million by a top official in Nicolás Maduro's government has decided to dump the controversial Venezuelan client amid a major outcry by critics who accused it of carrying water for a socialist "dictator," The Associated Press has learned.

The AP reported Monday that Foley & Lardner had agreed to represent Maduro's Inspector General Reinaldo Muñoz. Filings with the Justice Department showed Foley & Lardner, which has offices in Washington, in turn paid \$2 million to hire influential lobbyist Robert Stryk to help its client ease U.S. sanctions on Maduro's government and engage the Trump administration in direct talks.

Florida Republican Sen. Rick Scott immediately decried the move, saying in a letter to the firm that he would urge his Senate colleagues to follow his lead and boycott the firm until it cut ties with the "dangerous dictator."

Three people familiar with the matter said Thursday that Foley was withdrawing from the case. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter.

Foley's communications director, Dan Farrell, declined to comment.

"I hope the last few days will serve as a lesson to any other lobbying firms, consultants or organizations that if you support Maduro and his gang of thugs I won't stay quiet," Scott said in an emailed statement to AP.

A senior Venezuelan government official said the reversal wouldn't discourage the Maduro government from seeking honest dialogue with the Trump administration. The official spoke to AP on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The outreach by Maduro's government came as criticism has also been directed at U.S. support for opposition leader Juan Guaidó, whom the U.S. and about 60 other nations recognize as Venezuela's rightful president.

A year into the U.S.-backed campaign to oust Maduro, the embattled leader has successfully beaten back a coup attempt, mass protests and punishing U.S. sanctions that have cut off his government's access to Western banks.

Randy Brinson, a conservative activist from Alabama who has teamed up recently with an evangelical

Venezuelan pastor to deliver humanitarian aid to the country, said regular Venezuelans would suffer the consequences of possible dialogue with Maduro being stymied.

"It is unfortunate that the outreach has become so politicized," said Brinson.

Brinson said he met with Muñoz on two occasions recently and considers him an "invaluable" ally in the humanitarian relief effort brokered between the Maduro government and pastor Javier Bertucci, a former presidential candidate.

Stryk, a winemaker and former Republican aide who unsuccessfully ran for mayor of Yountville, California, is one of the top lobbyists in Trump's Washington.

A former unpaid Trump campaign adviser on the West Coast, his firm, Sonoran Policy Group, had no reported lobbying from 2013 to 2016 but has billed more than \$10.5 million to foreign clients since the start of 2017.

Like Venezuela, many of the clients have bruised reputations in Washington or are under U.S. sanctions, such as the governments of Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Interior, which signed a \$5.4 million contract in May 2017.

Muñoz's contract with Foley, for a flat fee of \$12.5 million, extended until May 10. Stryk's share of the deal, as a consultant, was \$2 million.

Foley said in its filing that it received slightly more than \$3 million in initial payments on behalf of Muñoz from what appear to be two Hong Kong-registered companies. Its work was also to include discussions with officials at the U.S. Treasury Department and other U.S. agencies regarding sanctions against the Maduro government.

UN agency declares global emergency over virus from China

By MARIA CHENG and JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organization declared the outbreak sparked by a new virus in China that has spread to more than a dozen countries as a global emergency Thursday after the number of cases spiked more than tenfold in a week.

The U.N. health agency defines an international emergency as an "extraordinary event" that constitutes a risk to other countries and requires a coordinated international response.

China first informed WHO about cases of the new virus in late December. To date, China has reported more than 7,800 cases including 170 deaths. Eighteen other countries have since reported cases, as scientists race to understand how exactly the virus is spreading and how severe it is.

Experts say there is significant evidence the virus is spreading among people in China and have noted with concern instances in other countries — including the United States, France, Japan, Germany, Canada, South Korea and Vietnam — where there have also been isolated cases of human-to-human transmission.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus noted the worrisome spread of the virus between people outside China.

"The main reason for this declaration is not because of what is happening in China but because of what is happening in other countries," he said. "Our greatest concern is the potential for this virus to spread to countries with weaker health systems which are ill-prepared to deal with it."

"This declaration is not a vote of non-confidence in China," he said. "On the contrary, WHO continues to have the confidence in China's capacity to control the outbreak."

A declaration of a global emergency typically brings greater money and resources, but may also prompt nervous governments to restrict travel and trade to affected countries. The announcement also imposes more disease reporting requirements on countries.

In the wake of numerous airlines cancelling flights to China and businesses including Starbucks and McDonald's temporarily closing hundreds of shops, Tedros said WHO was not recommending limiting travel or trade to China.

"There is no reason for measures that unnecessarily interfere with international travel and trade," he said. He added that Chinese President Xi Jinping had committed to help stop the spread of the virus beyond

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 54 of 71

its borders.

"During my discussion with the president and other officials, they're willing to support countries with weaker health systems with whatever is possible," Tedros said.

On Thursday, France confirmed that a doctor who was in contact with a patient with the new virus later became infected himself. The doctor is now being treated in an isolated room at a Paris hospital. Outbreak specialists worry that the spread of new viruses from patients to health workers can signal the virus is becoming adapted to human transmission.

China raised the death toll to 170 on Thursday and more countries reported infections, including some spread locally, as foreign evacuees from China's worst-hit region returned home to medical tests and even isolation.

Russia announced it was closing its 2,600-mile border with China, joining Mongolia and North Korea in barring crossings to guard against a new viral outbreak. It had been de facto closed because of the Lunar New Year holiday, but Russian authorities said the closure would be extended until March 1.

Meanwhile, the United States and South Korea confirmed their first cases of person-to-person spread of the virus. The man in the U.S. is married to a 60-year-old Chicago woman who got sick from the virus after she returned from a trip to Wuhan, the Chinese city that is the epicenter of the outbreak.

The case in South Korea was a 56-year-old man who had contact with a patient who was diagnosed with the new virus earlier.

Although scientists expect to see limited transmission of the virus between people with close contact, like within families, the instances of spread to people who may have had less exposure to the virus in Japan and Germany is worrying.

In Japan, a man in his 60s caught the virus after working as a bus driver for two tour groups from Wuhan. In Germany, a man in his 30s was sickened after a Chinese colleague from Shanghai, whose parents had recently visited from Wuhan, came to his office for a business meeting. Four other workers later became infected. The woman had shown no symptoms of the virus until her flight back to China.

"That's the kind of transmission chain that we don't want to see," said Marion Koopmans, an infectious diseases specialist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands and a member of WHO's emergency committee.

Koopmans said more information was needed about how the virus was spread in these instances and whether it meant the virus was more infectious than previously thought or if there was something unusual in those circumstances.

Mark Harris, a professor of virology at Leeds University, said it appears that the spread of the virus among people is probably easier than initially presumed.

"If transmission between humans was difficult, then the numbers would have plateaued," he said. Harris said the limited amount of virus spread beyond China suggested the outbreak could still be contained, but that if people are spreading the disease before they show symptoms — as some Chinese politicians and researchers have suggested — that could compromise control efforts.

The new virus has now infected more people in China than were sickened there during the 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, a cousin of the new virus. Both are from the coronavirus family, which also includes those that can cause the common cold.

The latest figures for mainland China show an increase of 38 deaths and 1,737 cases for a total of 7,736 confirmed cases. Of the new deaths, 37 were in Hubei province, of which Wuhan is the capital, and one was in the southwestern province of Sichuan. Outside China, there are 82 infections in 18 countries, according to WHO.

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

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.

Dr. Jeremy Farrar, director of Britain's Wellcome Trust, welcomed WHO's emergency declaration.

"This virus has spread at unprecedented scale and speed, with cases passing between people in multiple countries across the world," he said in a statement. "It is also a stark reminder of how vulnerable we are to epidemics of infectious diseases known and unknown."

Cheng reported from London. Associated Press writers Ken Moritsugu in Beijing, Elaine Ganley in Paris, Frank Jordans in Berlin, Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo and Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

NFL's Saints accused of helping shape clergy sex abuse list

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The New Orleans Saints say they only did "minimal" public relations work on the area's Roman Catholic sexual abuse crisis, but attorneys suing the church allege hundreds of confidential Saints emails show the team's involvement went much further, helping to shape a list of credibly accused clergy that appears to be undercounted.

New court papers filed this week by lawyers for about two dozen men making sexual abuse claims against the Archdiocese of New Orleans gave the most detailed description yet of the emails that have rocked the NFL team and remain shielded from the public.

"This goes beyond public relations," the attorneys wrote, accusing the Saints of issuing misleading statements saying their work for the archdiocese involved only "messaging" and handling media inquiries as part of the 2018 release of the clergy names.

Instead, they wrote, "The Saints appear to have had a hand in determining which names should or should not have been included on the pedophile list."

"In order to fulfill this role ... the Saints must have known the specific allegations of sexual abuse against a priest ... and made a judgment call about whether those allegations by a particular victim against a named priest were, in its opinion, legitimate enough to warrant being included," the attorneys wrote. They added, "It cannot now be disputed that the Saints had actual involvement in the creation of the pedophile list."

That list, the Saints' role in it and how accurate it was have become key questions in a controversy that has swirled around the team since news of the emails broke last week.

Victims' advocates have long argued that the New Orleans Archdiocese's list of 57 credibly accused clergy, since expanded by six more names, minimizes the problem. An Associated Press analysis of the list suggests it underestimated the actual number of publicly accused clergy members in the region by at least 20.

Plaintiffs' attorneys alleged in earlier court papers that Saints executives joined in the archdiocese's "pattern and practice of concealing its crimes," and one email from late 2018 referred to Saints Senior Vice President of Communications Greg Bensel joining unnamed "third parties" in a discussion about "removing priests from the pedophile list." It was not clear which other Saints officials may have been involved.

The Saints, whose devoutly Catholic owner Gayle Benson is close friends with the local archbishop, have disputed as "outrageous" any suggestion that the team helped cover up crimes. They have accused plaintiffs' attorneys of mischaracterizing what is in the emails.

Even as the team's attorneys went to court to keep the 276 documents from being released to the public, they said in a court filing this week, "Neither the Saints nor any of their personnel have anything to hide." The team says it does not object to the emails becoming public later if they are admitted into evidence in the case.

In a lengthy statement Wednesday, the Saints said Bensel, the team spokesman, advised the archdiocese to be "direct, open and fully transparent" when it released its list to the media and to make sure all law

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 56 of 71

enforcement agencies were alerted.

"Never did the Saints organization offer advice to conceal information," the team's statement said. "In fact, we advised that as new information relative to credible evidence about other clergy came to light, then those names should be released and given to the proper authorities."

In its own statement Thursday, the New Orleans Archdiocese disputed the plaintiffs' attorneys on the Saints' role, saying it was "limited to guidance in releasing information to media" and not advising on the content of the accused clergy list.

The National Football League has not responded to repeated queries from the AP about whether such PR work by the team was appropriate or violated league conduct policies.

But victims' advocates say the Saints have at least created the appearance of impropriety.

"It's inappropriate for a football team to involve itself in a sex abuse scandal," said Kevin Bourgeois, who is both a local volunteer leader of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests and a Saints season ticket holder.

"Their response was that they told the archbishop to be straightforward and open," said Bourgeois, who wore a black Saints jersey at a news conference this week outside the team's suburban practice facility. "And we believe that that's completely not true."

The AP, which first reported on the Saints email controversy last week, filed a motion with the court this month supporting the release of the documents as a matter of public interest.

Both the Saints and the archdiocese have opposed the AP's involvement, and a court hearing was set Friday on whether the news organization may be heard. After that, another hearing will be scheduled to consider whether the Saints emails given to plaintiffs' attorneys may be released to the public.

The litigation has brought fresh attention to the process by which the New Orleans archdiocese came to produce its list of 57 names of clergy it deemed "credibly accused" of sexually abusing minors — the first roster of its kind to be released in heavily Catholic Louisiana.

The list was published in November 2018 as the archdiocese was reeling from a scandal in which a longtime deacon and schoolteacher, George F. Brignac, continued serving as a lay minister in the church decades after he was accused of sexually abusing children. An Orleans Parish grand jury indicted Brignac last year on claims he raped an altar boy beginning the late 1970s.

An AP investigation identified 20 clergy members who had been accused in lawsuits or charged by law enforcement with child sexual abuse who are missing from the New Orleans archdiocese list — including two who were charged and convicted of crimes.

The AP analysis included a review of bankruptcy documents, lawsuits, settlement information, grand jury reports, media accounts and a database of accused priests tracked by the group BishopAccountability.org.

Meanwhile, a new lawsuit accuses local church leaders of refusing to disclose the names of 17 people accused of abusing children at a church-run home called Madonna Manor in suburban Jefferson Parish. The names were omitted from the list even though the archdiocese has paid millions of dollars to settle claims of sexual abuse at the home, the lawsuit says.

When the credibly accused list was released in late 2018, Archbishop Gregory Aymond expressed confidence in its accuracy and said it implicated 2 percent of local clergy following a review of 2,432 files dating to 1950.

That percentage would be significantly lower than the representation of abusive priests seen in jurisdictions around the country, said Terry McKiernan, founder of BishopAccountability.org, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit group that tracks clergy sexual abuse cases.

The church's own numbers, published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, put the national average around 6 percent, while some advocacy groups contend it's as high as 10 percent.

McKiernan said it would be "objectionable" for Bensel to hold the dual role of directing damage control and weighing in on the contents of the credibly accused list.

"One would hope that the church is not viewing this as a PR matter anymore but a matter for truth and justice," McKiernan said. "If you have someone helping you spin not only the problem but the supposedly accurate list that describes the problem, you have a lot of work to do."

Associated Press writers Claudia Lauer in Philadelphia, Meghan Hoyer in Washington and Kevin McGill in Metairie, Louisiana, contributed to this report. Contact AP's investigative team at Investigative@ap.org.

Experts on Dershowitz's impeachment defense: Quid pro whoa

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alan Dershowitz delivered a stunning defense of President Donald Trump in the Senate that would essentially make it impossible to impeach a president for anything he might do to boost his reelection prospects. It was a contention quickly and forcefully denounced by a range of legal scholars and historians who said there were clear limits on presidential authority.

Dershowitz said on Thursday that his remarks have been misinterpreted, but Democrats seized on them as they pressed their case for Trump's removal from office for tying the release of military aid to Ukraine to an investigation of his political rivals.

His starting point was the benign assertion that every politician believes his election is in the public interest, but he pivoted abruptly to Ukraine, and began to frame an argument that would rewrite most conventional understanding of the scope of presidential power.

As novel as it was, his premise in many ways tracked the views of Trump who has said he was not bound by some constitutional constraints that other presidents have readily accepted. And several Republican senators seemed to find merit in what Dershowitz said.

The person in the chamber who in other settings might have a lot to say about the matter, Chief Justice John Roberts, was instead rendered essentially a spectator as he watched the arguments play out.

"If a president does something which he believes will help him get elected, in the public interest, that cannot be the kind of quid pro quo that results in impeachment," Dershowitz said Wednesday as senators put questions to Democratic House lawmakers who are prosecuting the case against Trump in the Senate and to Trump's defense team.

Robert Dallek, a presidential historian who has written books about five presidents, from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Ronald Reagan, called Dershowitz's argument unique. "Frankly I've never seen that before, that a president's power extends to wherever his politics are," Dallek said. "There is a pretty well defined idea of what a president can do and can't do and when he seems to overstep his bounds, he runs into great difficulty with the Congress or the judiciary."

Barbara Perry, director of presidential studies at the University of Virginia's Miller Center, said Dershowitz had it backwards in suggesting that the public interest is whatever serves the president's reelection campaign. "What we hope is that they at least think in terms of the nation's interests and then align their personal interest with the public interest, the country's interest," Perry said.

What's more, she said, Dershowitz's formulation could serve as a dangerous precedent for future presidents who might think they can do anything they want in the political arena, except for violation of a criminal statute. "Then there's nothing to be done about a president who can make the case that I did it in my self-interest," she said.

She reached back to Richard Nixon's presidency and the "dirty tricks" carried out to undermine the campaigns of Democratic rivals in 1972. "Nixon was trying to get reelected. Every single thing that happened in Watergate, all of those things would not be impeachable?" Perry said.

Both Perry and Dallek said the closest similar invocation of presidential power was Nixon's statement, made after he resigned the presidency: "Well, when the president does it ... that means that it is not illegal," Nixon told interviewer David Frost in 1977.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., alluded to Nixon in Thursday's Senate session. "We are right back to where we were a half century ago, and I would argue that we may be in a worse place, because this time, this time, that argument may succeed," Schiff said.

For his part, Dershowitz, a retired college professor, complained on Twitter that his argument was being "willfully distorted" by media outlets.

"They characterized my argument as if I had said that if a president believes that his re-election was in the national interest, he can do anything. I said nothing like that, as anyone who actually heard what I said can attest," Dershowitz wrote in a series of tweets.

"Let me be clear once again (as I was in the senate): a president seeking re-election cannot do anything he wants. He is not above the law. He cannot commit crimes. He cannot commit impeachable conduct.

"But a lawful act— holding up funds, sending troops to vote, braking a promise about Syria — does not become unlawful or impeachable if done with a mixed motive of both promoting the public interest and helping his RE-election. Please respond to my argument, not a distortion of it," Dershowitz wrote.

AP Exclusive: Woman who says Trump raped her seeks his DNA

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Lawyers for a woman who accuses President Donald Trump of raping her in the 1990s are asking for a DNA sample, seeking to determine whether his genetic material is on a dress she says she wore during the encounter.

Advice columnist E. Jean Carroll's lawyers served notice to a Trump attorney Thursday for Trump to submit a sample on March 2 in Washington for "analysis and comparison against unidentified male DNA present on the dress."

Carroll filed a defamation suit against Trump in November after the president denied her allegation, saying he didn't know and had never even met her. Her lawyer, Roberta Kaplan, then had the black wool coat-style dress tested. A lab report with the legal notice says DNA found in skin cells on the outer surface of the sleeves was a mix of at least four people, at least one of them male.

Several other people were tested and eliminated as possible contributors to the mix, according to the lab report, which was obtained by The Associated Press. Their names are redacted, but the report indicates they were involved in a photo shoot where she wore the dress last year, the only time Carroll says she has donned the dress since the alleged assault.

"Unidentified male DNA on the dress could prove that Donald Trump not only knows who I am, but also that he violently assaulted me in a dressing room at Bergdorf Goodman and then defamed me by lying about it and impugning my character," Carroll said in a statement Thursday.

The White House and Trump's lawyer have not responded to a request for comment.

While the notice is a demand, such demands sometimes spur court fights requiring a judge to weigh in on whether they will be enforced.

Carroll accused Trump last summer of raping her in a dressing room in Bergdorf Goodman, a Manhattan luxury department store, in the mid-1990s.

In a New York magazine piece in June and a book published the next month, Carroll said she and Trump met by chance, chatted and went to the lingerie department for Trump to pick out a gift for an unidentified woman. She said joking banter about trying on a bodysuit ended in a dressing room, where she said Trump pinned her against the wall by her arms, reached under the dress, pulled down her tights and raped her as she tried to fight him off, eventually escaping.

"The Donna Karan coatdress still hangs on the back of my closet door, unworn and unlaundered since that evening," she wrote. She donned it for a photo accompanying the magazine piece.

She had kept the dress because it was a favorite and she hoped she could someday feel comfortable wearing it again, her legal team says.

Trump said in June that Carroll was "totally lying" and he had "never met this person in my life." While a 1987 photo shows them and their then-spouses at a social event, Trump dismissed it as a moment when he was "standing with my coat on in a line."

"She is trying to sell a new book — that should indicate her motivation," he said in one of various statements on the matter, adding that the book "should be sold in the fiction section."

Carroll sued Trump in November, saying he smeared her and hurt her career as a longtime Elle magazine advice columnist by calling her a liar. She is seeking unspecified damages and a retraction of Trump's statements.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 59 of 71

Her lawyer, Kaplan, said the DNA sample request was "standard operating procedure" given the unidentified male DNA on the garment.

"As a result, we've requested a simple saliva sample from Mr. Trump to test his DNA, and there really is no valid basis for him to object," she said.

Trump's lawyer has tried to get the case thrown out. A Manhattan judge declined to do so earlier this month, saying the attorney hadn't properly backed up his arguments that the case didn't belong in a New York court.

The Associated Press typically does not name people who say they have been sexually assaulted, unless they come forward publicly.

Carroll said she didn't do so for decades because she feared legal retribution from Trump and damage to her reputation, among other reasons. But when the #MeToo movement spurred reader requests for advice about sexual assault, she said, she decided she had to disclose her own account.

Trump, a Republican, isn't the first president to face the prospect of a DNA test related to a woman's dress.

Former President Bill Clinton, a Democrat, underwent such a test during an independent counsel investigation into whether he had a sexual relationship with onetime White House intern Monica Lewinsky and then lied in denying it under oath.

After Clinton's DNA was found on the dress, he acknowledged an "inappropriate intimate relationship" with Lewinsky.

Clinton was impeached by the House in December 1998 and later acquitted by the Senate.

Jennifer Lopez and Shakira vow 'empowering' halftime show

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Jennifer Lopez and Shakira said their Super Bowl halftime show will pay homage to Latino culture, promising a joint performance that has an empowering message and also one that will remember NBA icon Kobe Bryant.

Lopez and Shakira on Thursday held a press conference before Sunday's big game in Miami, telling media they worked hard to put together an eye-popping, high-energy 12-minute performance before the San Francisco 49ers take on the Kansas City Chiefs at Hard Rock Stadium.

"When I was living in Barranquilla, my hometown, as a little girl no one would have thought that I would be performing at the Super Bowl," Colombian singer Shakira said. "It would be so hard to believe. And it's a reality today, now. I think that this is a palpable example of how anything is possible really and I think what matters is the size of dreams."

Shakira and Lopez have separately released a number of chart-topping hits that dominated both the pop and Latin charts in the last two decades. While rehearsing days ago, Lopez said her beau Alex Rodriguez came to her in tears to let her know Bryant, a friend of his, had passed away. Lopez said Thursday she wanted to send love and support to Bryant's wife and family.

"We have to love people when they're here and not wait," said Lopez "I think about Vanessa as a mom and losing her best friend and partner and losing her child, you know, how awful that must be for her right now, and I just wanted to send the message and praying God guides her through every moment because she has three more babies to take care of."

Bryant had attended concerts by Lopez and Shakira, the singers said Thursday. Shakira added that they want to honor his legacy Sunday.

"Life is so fragile. And that's why we have to live every moment as intensely as we can," Shakira said. "And I think we'll all be remembering Kobe on Sunday. And we'll be celebrating life and celebrating diversity in this country. I'm sure he'll be very proud to see the message that we're going to try to convey onstage."

The singers also want to celebrate women and the Latino community with their performance. Lopez noted that for the first time two Latinas are headlining the halftime show.

"That statement alone to me is empowering. When I think of my daughter, when I think of all the little

girls in the world, to be able to have that (and) to see that two Latinas (are) doing this in this country at this time, it's just very empowering for us," said Lopez, who was born in New York to Puerto Rican parents.

Sunday will mark the first halftime show to be orchestrated under the leadership of Jay-Z and Roc Nation thanks to their new entertainment partnership with the NFL. The singers said they are extremely excited but also a little nervous about the performance.

"I was up till 4 in the morning last night trying a pair of shorts and kind of tearing because they didn't fit right. So, it is nerve-racking but also exhilarating," Shakira said.

"It's definitely a ride," Lopez added.

"The relieving factor is they're going to be people out there and it's our people cheering for us, fans, and it's in Miami," Shakira said as the audience cheered on loudly.

"And that's so, so special because Miami is a city full of energy, it's an important nest for the Latino community and it's been a viable city for me because a huge part of my career was forged here. And it's also it'll be on my birthday, too, so happy birthday to me."

AP Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy contributed to this report from New York City.

Paralyzed at 19, Buoniconti has mixed feelings on football

By STEVEN WINE AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — With the Super Bowl coming to town, Marc Buoniconti sat in his office talking about the Chiefs-49ers matchup and wondered who was favored, so he looked at the phone strapped on the right arm of his wheelchair.

"Siri, what is the current point spread for the Super Bowl?" Buoniconti asked.

Answer: Chiefs by one.

Another answer: Yes, despite it all, Buoniconti still loves football.

Like no other family, the Buonicontis have experienced football glory and grief. Marc was paralyzed from the shoulders down making a tackle in college in 1985. His father, Nick, a Pro Football Hall of Fame linebacker, died last July after struggling with symptoms of CTE, a degenerative brain disease associated with repeated blows to the head.

Marc will watch Sunday's game, but like many fans these days, he has mixed feelings about the sport and its toll. And his emotions are drawn from firsthand experience.

"It's such a love-hate relationship with the game," said Buoniconti, sitting by a sunny window at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. "Football opened up every door for my family, right? And then I had my injury, right? Football put me in my chair. And then who knew years and years later the toll it would have on my father.

"You look at everything football gave to the Buonicontis, but look at what it took away at the end."

Marc's older brother, Nick III, chuckled slightly when asked later about what football has done for — and to — their family.

"You mean the blessing and the curse?" Nick said.

Their father played on back-to-back Super Bowl championship teams with the Miami Dolphins and helped them achieve the NFL's only perfect season in 1972. Marc was then 6, went to home games and fondly remembers hanging out in the locker room at the Orange Bowl.

Dad retired in 1976.

"After his last game," Marc said, "he walked off the field and got down on his hands and knees and kissed the ground and said, 'Thank God I spent 15 years playing NFL football and had a great career, and I'm able to walk off the field with no lingering injuries.'

"Little do you know all that wear and tear would eventually impact him."

Nick, who enjoyed a successful career after football as a broadcaster and tobacco industry executive, was in his 70s when he began having trouble walking and talking.

He gave up golf and driving, and became isolated and depressed.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 61 of 71

"It was a challenging last couple of years watching such a strong man deteriorate," Marc said. "Toward the end it was a rapid decline. It was really, really hard."

But Marc said he and his father didn't blame football for their fate.

"It's not the game's fault," Marc said. "We chose to play."

Dad's death created a void for the family, and also at the Miami Project, the spinal cord and brain injury research center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

Marc has long worked for the center to raise money and awareness, but the role changed as his father declined.

"Marc really had to step up, so to speak, even though he can't move," said Dr. Barth Green, who helped Nick Buoniconti start the Miami Project after Marc was paralyzed. "Nick was always the power generator in the Project, and Marc has always been sort of in the shadow."

"Now, Marc has done wonderfully with administrative issues, fundraising, strategic planning and meeting with the scientists. He's a well-rounded human being with great skills, and we never really appreciated it because Nick was bigger than life."

Marc, 53, goes to the office three or four days a week, even though it takes him hours to get ready. He looks the part of an administrator, wearing a phone earbud as he drums up support.

"Let's give back to others who are less fortunate," he said at one point.

Buoniconti lives in a large house on an acre near where he grew up, his yard full of fruit trees. He has a longtime girlfriend and would like to marry, but must stay single to keep his insurance.

His face is expressive in conversation, perhaps to compensate for his immobility, and he still has the neck of a football player. He has outlived his prognosis and said his health is generally good, adding, "Knock on wood" without noting the remark's dark humor.

"His spirit is still so strong," his brother said. "It seems he's never in the dumps about it. He wakes up every day and makes a difference in people's lives."

But he must breathe through a tube to navigate his wheelchair, and a nurse is on standby 24 hours a day to help with even basic tasks, such as mopping Marc's brow.

"I'm really content with my life," Marc said. "I don't look down and see myself in a wheelchair that much."

Sometimes he dreams he's playing football.

"Dreams," he said, "are a pleasant escape."

Marc is pleased with progress made by the Miami Project, and optimistic trauma patients like him will someday walk again.

"Maybe it won't be a cure for Marc Buoniconti. But it will cure a lot of people," he said. "And actually, we've already cured some people. We have dramatically improved people's independence, and people are walking out of the hospital because of us."

Some would avoid brain and spinal cord injuries if they didn't play football, he acknowledged. His father's illness changed his opinion about youth football, and he now believes kids should wait until high school to play.

He said he would try to steer young relatives away from contact sports at all, and he wonders about the long-term future of football given a recent decline in high school participation.

Still, Buoniconti is an enthusiastic spectator. He applauds the NFL's efforts to make the game safer, but sounds like many other fans when he expresses reservations about rule changes to restrict contact.

"It's not touch football," he said. "It's a tough balance between protecting the players and honoring the sport."

On Super Sunday, Buoniconti plans to throw a private party at Pig Floyd Barbecue, a new restaurant he's opening with a friend from first grade.

He looks forward to watching a good game, but won't be surprised if a serious injury intrudes on the festive day.

Football, he said, is a dangerous sport.

___ More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

___ Follow Steven Wine on Twitter: http://twitter.com/Steve_Wine.

Review: It's messy and crazy and deep—Kesha returns roaring

By **MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer**

Kesha, "High Road" (Kemosabe/RCA Records)

Kesha's new album starts out on a portentous and soaring note with the singer on the opening song "Tonight" in full Broadway mode, belting out "Take me out tooooniiiiiggghht." But 40 seconds in, it dissolves into a messy club banger complete with random expletives, crowd screams, a lost phone and the singer high and drunk as she readies to hit the town.

In other words, welcome back, Kesha.

"High Road" is Kesha at her wonderfully anarchic, tipsy, profound and goofy best. Few artists can portray themselves as silly, airy party girls and then utterly subvert that very image, all in the same song. "I don't do that dance," she warns us on the new album. "I only do my own dance."

"High Road" has a complex mix of textures, ranging from the gospel-influenced dance hall of "Raising Hell" with Big Freedia to the somber country of "Resentment" with Sturgill Simpson, Wrabel and Brian Wilson. Kesha can go from quietly singing about a lover's alienation with a revered Beach Boy to "Birthday Suit," a horny, cornball ditty that uses '80s video game sounds to seduce a lover ("You got any secret tattoos?").

It wouldn't be a Kesha record without some funny recorded vignettes — in one, the Spice Girls are gently mocked — or bizarre songs that are strangely addictive, like the utterly oddball, tuba-led "Potato Song (Cuz I Want To)." That's not to mean she can't drop the zaniness and deliver a devastating emotional punch, as she does in "Father Daughter Dance," a heartbreaking ode to living without a parent.

She can go from the carefully processed, naughty banger "Kinky" to the stripped-down acoustic twang of "Cowboy Blues." Her lyrics are often clever throughout: "Don't circumcise my circumstance," she sings in one song. "Go get your shadow out of my sunshine," she offers in another. Kesha even mocks an old self on "Kinky" by crediting the feature performance to "Ke\$ha").

Another highlight is the sweet "BFF," which is both incredibly specific to Kesha — rehab, tattoo, dark times, Grammys — and also a sweet ode to friendship. Pebe Sebert, Kesha's mom, is a co-writer and offers backup vocals. "You build me up/When I'm feeling low, low, low." That's also what Kesha does best. Welcome back.

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

US finds ally in Mexico as asylum policy marks first year

By **ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press**

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — The Perla family of El Salvador has slipped into a daily rhythm in Mexico while they wait for the U.S. to decide whether to grant them asylum.

A modest home has replaced the tent they lived in at a migrant shelter. Their 7- and 5-year-old boys are in their second year of public school, and their third son is about to celebrate his second birthday in Tijuana.

They were among the first migrants sent back to Mexico under a Trump administration policy that dramatically reshaped the scene at the U.S.-Mexico border by returning migrants to Mexico to wait out their U.S. asylum process. The practice initially targeted Central Americans but has expanded to other nationalities, excluding Mexicans, who are exempt. The Homeland Security Department said Wednesday that it started making Brazilians wait in Mexico.

Today, a year after the policy began, many other migrants have given up and gone back to the home countries they fled. Others, like the Perlas, became entrenched in Mexican life. The system known as the Migrant Protection Protocols helped change Washington's relationship with Mexico and made the neighbor a key ally in President Donald Trump's efforts to turn away a surge of asylum seekers.

The Perlas are faring better than most of the roughly 60,000 asylum-seekers, many of whom live in fear of being robbed, assaulted, raped or killed. Human Rights First, a group critical of the policy, has documented 816 public reports of violent crimes against those who were returned to Mexico. Late last year, the body

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 63 of 71

of a Salvadoran father of two was found dismembered in Tijuana. A Salvadoran woman was kidnapped into prostitution in Ciudad Juarez.

Rapid expansion of the policy was key to a June agreement between the U.S. and Mexico that led Trump to suspend his threat of tariff increases. The Republican president said at the time that Mexico was doing more than Democrats to address illegal immigration.

American officials praised President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's government last week after security forces repelled a caravan of Honduran migrants on Mexico's southern border with Guatemala.

"Mexico continues to be a true partner in addressing this regional crisis," Mark Morgan, acting commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, said on Twitter.

U.S. border authorities say the policy has contributed to a sharp drop in illegal crossings, though legal challenges could modify or even block it. Immigration judges hear cases in San Diego and El Paso, Texas, while other asylum-seekers report to tent courts in the Texas cities of Laredo and Brownsville, where they are connected to judges by video.

This month, judges in El Paso began hearing cases of people who were returned to Mexico through Nogales, Arizona, the last major corridor for illegal crossings where the policy hadn't been adopted. This has forced migrants to traverse dangerous sections of Mexico and travel hundreds of miles to make court appearances.

Richard Boren, a teacher, accompanied two Guatemalan women and their four children, ages 4 to 16, across an international bridge to their El Paso hearing. The Guatemalans traveled 13 hours by bus from the Arizona border.

"I was really worried about them," said Boren, 62, who met them after they were returned to Mexico through Arizona and reconnected with them for their first hearing.

Of nearly 30,000 cases decided through December, only 187, or fewer than 1%, of asylum-seekers sent back to Mexico won their cases, according to Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. Lack of legal representation helps explain why. Fewer than 5% have lawyers.

Juan Carlos Perla, 37, said all five legal-services agencies that U.S. authorities say provide free representation in San Diego declined to represent him. Many attorneys refuse to represent clients in Mexico.

The Perlas abandoned their small bakery in El Salvador's capital for Mexico in December 2018, arriving during a small window when the Mexican government issued one-year humanitarian visas with permission to work. The family told U.S. immigration authorities that they could not pay extortion fees to gangs in San Salvador.

"We were told that if we did not pay the last two months, the next time they would come to our house not to beat us but to kill us," Ruth Aracely Monroy, 26, Perla's partner and mother to their children, told U.S. officials, according to a transcript. "We left to save our lives."

After bouncing around migrant shelters in Tijuana, they found a rental house for the equivalent of \$65 a month an hour's drive from downtown, where factories on the city's east side give way to dairy farms and hillsides dotted with olive trees. The older boys walk one block to school in a densely packed neighborhood of concrete-block homes with satellite dishes on the roofs.

Perla is grateful to be in Mexico, but grinding fear about the future has taken its toll on his health. "I am the driving force that keeps them from having to suffer from hunger," he says.

Monroy's sister, brother-in-law and their children fled El Salvador and became neighbors in June. Their first court date was in December in San Diego.

Perla earned enough at a factory that makes wood pallets to pay monthly rent with barely a week's work, but he lost his job when his work permit expired. While he waits on a renewal, he scrapes by as a street vendor.

The family appears to face long odds of winning asylum, especially without a lawyer. The grant rate for Salvadoran asylum-seekers is 18%, and cases involving gang violence can be among the most difficult.

The family plans to take its chances and if they lose, try to return to Tijuana to live. Their sixth, and possibly final, hearing in San Diego is scheduled for March 26.

"Mexico has been very kind," Perla said.

Associated Press Writer Cedar Attanasio in El Paso, Texas, contributed to this report.

Aiming at Trump, Biden says a president's character matters

By **BILL BARROW** and **ALEXANDRA JAFFE** Associated Press

WAUKEE, Iowa (AP) — With four days until the Iowa caucuses, Joe Biden is looking beyond his Democratic rivals and taking square aim at President Donald Trump as the two men campaign within miles of each other on the same day.

"In November, America will have the chance to answer the question: Does the character of a president matter?" Biden said as he delivered a sweeping address on why Trump must be defeated. "I don't believe we are the dark angry nation that Donald Trump sees in his tweets in the middle of the night," Biden later added. "America is so much better than this."

Biden ticked through reasons he believes Trump is a threat "to our core values" and added a policy checklist he would use against the president in a hypothetical fall campaign: health care, climate action and gun regulation topping the list.

"I can hardly wait to debate this man," Biden said. Set against the backdrop of Trump's impeachment trial in Washington, Biden's address represents his latest attempts to fend off an onslaught of GOP attacks over his son's business overseas as the former vice president looks to reassure Democrats that he's the party's best option to oust Trump at the ballot box. The president himself plans a nighttime rally in Des Moines.

Biden, since his April campaign launch, has run what looks like a general election campaign against Trump, but it's an especially striking approach days before Democrats' 2020 voting begins with Monday's caucuses. The former vice president was deep into his speech before tacitly acknowledging that he'll have to win the nomination before being able to take on Trump directly.

"I am asking you to caucus for me. I need your help," he said.

Trump and Republicans, meanwhile, have made clear a fall campaign would be a bruising exercise for Biden and his family. The GOP has amplified its allegations against the former vice president in recent days, accusing him of nepotism and worse in a series of charges stemming from the impeachment case against Trump.

In his final Iowa tour this week, Biden has opted to embrace the GOP offensive. He's openly mocked 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 said Wednesday 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 has made a guaranteed laugh line out of remarks from Iowa's Republican Sen. Joni Ernst. She emerged from the Senate proceedings earlier this week 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."

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 told The Associated Press, "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 Twit-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 65 of 71

ter pressuring the online platforms to block ads from Trump's reelection campaign that contained similar debunked allegations against the Bidens.

"We are going to call out the lies. We are going to confront him," Dunn said of how Biden will handle Trump going forward.

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."

___ 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."

'The Assistant' aims to go behind the headlines of #MeToo

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — "The Assistant" is one of the first narrative films to come out of the #MeToo movement and the Harvey Weinstein scandal. The film, written and directed by Kitty Green, features a predatory studio executive modeled after Weinstein, but he is unseen throughout the movie. "The Assistant" focuses instead on the toxic work environment around him, detailing a day in the life of a low-level assistant.

Green, an Australian filmmaker, has previously made documentaries that attempt to peel away the superficial sheen of media sensationalism. Her debut, "Ukraine Is Not a Brothel," profiled a Ukrainian feminist group famous for its topless protests. Her 2017 documentary, "Casting JonBenet," used local Colorado actors to get beyond the rumors and tabloid headlines of the child pageant queen's unsolved murder.

In 2017, Green was working on a film about sexual abuse on college campuses when the Weinstein case broke. She quickly pivoted.

"I've always been interested in the way these events, especially involving women, are covered in the press," Green said in an interview. "I was a little concerned that the media seemed to be focusing on these evil men and not on the system that surrounds them and the structures that keeps them in power. I wanted to look at it from a different angle rather than looking at it from the top down. I wanted to look at it from the bottom up."

"The Assistant," which recently screened at the Sundance Film Festival, arrives in limited theaters Friday just as the Weinstein trial is raging. (Weinstein has pleaded not guilty to two counts of rape, one count of criminal sexual act and two counts of predatory sexual assault.) Hollywood assistants, like the one named Jane and played by Julia Garner in the film, are also rebelling. Since last October, #PayUpHollywood has sought to pressure the industry to give its assistants fairer treatment and better pay.

But while "The Assistant" may be reminiscent of current headlines, it takes a deliberately restrained approach to portraying gender dynamics in the workplace. Where "Bombshell," the Fox News drama, is starry

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 66 of 71

and showy in its depiction of sexual harassment at a media company, "The Assistant" is muted and sober. "One of the things she mentioned when we first met up was she wanted the film to be very quiet. And I think that was important because the subject is so loud," says Garner, the 25-year-old "Ozark" actress. "It's actually more powerful when you have a really quiet film, almost silent the whole time because the subject is silence."

In the film, Jane attends methodically to the rigors of her job: answering phone calls; printing out headshots of actresses; lying about her boss's whereabouts to his wife; unpacking a shipment of erectile dysfunction drugs; cleaning stains off her boss's couch.

"The Assistant" keeps to Jane's perspective, capturing her interplay with the higher-ranking male assistants next to her. They assume she'll entertain the boss' children when they visit. Phone calls from the wife get sent to her. She takes the lunch orders. Green depicts how power operates in the office and the disorienting nature a toxic environment that has grown rigid through years of practice.

"A lot of people, women and men were victims and they weren't even aware that they were victims. It was like a whole system in a way," says Garner. "It's like it's an out of body experience. They're getting thrown in to an awful situation."

Green interviewed, she says, some 100 people who had worked as assistants in preparation for the film. She was stuck by the patterns in their accounts about how their ascents in the industry were stymied by how they were regarded in the workplace. Most left the film industry.

"I don't have any experience being an assistant, not at a company here, but in Australia I did. And I did notice how my confidence was sort of stripped away from me. It really does shake your sense of self when people don't take you seriously," says Green. "I had to get the coffee because I was a woman. It's absurd and really does make you question your ambitions and makes you question whether you can get to these positions of power. It makes it feel kind of unreachable."

Green believes that as valuable as it is for women to land high-profile jobs in the industry, it's equally vital at the lower levels. "We need to get more women with their foot in the door in the first place," she says.

The revolt by Hollywood assistants, Green says, is a step in the right direction.

"It's really great that people are finally starting to reanalyze these power structures and the way they work," says Green. "It's fabulous to see what they're doing."

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

Israel PM meets with Putin, returns with freed tourist

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a quick stopover in Moscow on Thursday to brief Russian President Vladimir Putin on the new U.S. proposal for the Middle East and to bring home an Israeli woman who had been jailed on drug charges.

Netanyahu told Putin that the visit reflected the ever-warming ties between the countries, and that he was eager to hear Putin's insights on President Donald Trump's long-awaited blueprint to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But it appeared the main goal was to shuttle Naama Issachar back to Israel. The 26-year-old backpacker was arrested in April at a Moscow airport, where she was transferring en route from India to Israel with what Russian authorities said was more than nine grams of hashish in her luggage. She was convicted and sentenced to 7 1/2 years in prison.

Her plight has resonated strongly with the Israeli public, which considered her punishment excessive and saw the telegenic Issachar as a pawn in world politics.

After lengthy negotiations, Putin pardoned her on Wednesday after receiving numerous assurances and gestures from Israel, including the transfer of real estate in Jerusalem. Some in Israel also tied her case to that of a Russian hacker who Israel extradited to the U.S. instead of back to Russia, although officials in Moscow never publicly linked the two cases.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 67 of 71

Israeli television channels went to special live coverage as she walked out onto the frigid tarmac in Moscow alongside Netanyahu and his wife, and then boarded the plane with them to return to Israel. She smiled alongside her mother but made no comment.

Speaking to reporters on the way back, Netanyahu said she was very emotional reuniting with her family and being released from prison.

The detour to pick her up resulted in some criticism that Netanyahu was seeking to boost his campaign ahead of elections on March 2. In months of campaigning, through back-to-back elections that failed to produce a governing coalition, Netanyahu has portrayed himself as a master statesman, trumpeting his close ties to Trump, Putin and other world leaders.

Netanyahu, however, brushed away any talk of a political motive, saying Issachar's case was special and required his intervention.

"This whole affair took on such momentum that it threatened to damage vital Israeli interests," he said on the plane ride home. "The Russians have done a lot for us and this was one land mine we had to remove."

In his meeting with Putin, Netanyahu thanked the Russian president "on behalf of all the people of Israel for granting a pardon to Naama Issachar."

"This moves all of us, and our gratitude is on behalf of all Israeli citizens, from the heart," he said.

The rest of the meeting focused on the Iranian presence in neighboring Syria, other regional developments and the Trump plan.

Trump's proposal envisions a disjointed Palestinian state while turning over key parts of the West Bank to Israel. It sides with Israel on nearly all of the most contentious issues in the decades-old conflict and attaches nearly impossible conditions to recognition of Palestinian statehood.

"You are the first leader I am speaking with after my visit in Washington for Trump's Deal of the Century," Netanyahu told Putin at the Kremlin. "I think there is a new opportunity here, maybe even a unique opportunity, and I'd like to discuss it with you and hear your insights."

Trump has called his plan a "win-win" for both Israel and the Palestinians and urged the Palestinians not to miss their opportunity for independence. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has dismissed the plan as "nonsense" and vowed to resist it.

Putin didn't talk about Trump's plan in his opening remarks, and Russian officials so far have refrained from comment — a careful stance reflecting the Kremlin's desire to maintain warm ties with all sides as it also seeks rapprochement with the Trump administration .

Netanyahu said Russia-Israel relations are now "the best they have ever been."

Associated Press writer Vladimir Isachenkov contributed to this report.

AP-NORC poll: GOP more fired up for 2020, Democrats anxious

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and EMILY SWANSON undefined

When it comes to the 2020 presidential election, Democrats are nervous wrecks and Republican excitement has grown.

That's according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research as Americans look ahead to a high-stakes election that is 10 months away but still very much top of mind. While emotions could change in the coming months, the findings give Democrats one more worry to add to the list: Will anxiety or enthusiasm be a bigger motivator come November?

On the verge of the first votes being cast in a primary contest with no clear leader, 66% of Democrats report anxiety about the election, compared with 46% of Republicans. Democrats are also more likely to feel frustration. Republicans, meanwhile, are more likely than Democrats to declare excitement about the race, and the share of enthusiastic Republicans appears to be rising.

The findings aren't surprising to anyone who's talked to an undecided Democrat about the crowded primary field. Behind an intense desire to oust President Donald Trump, Democrats often describe deep uncertainty about what sort of candidate has the best chance and whether the party will be able to win

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 68 of 71

the votes. There's also hard division over policy and whispers about a contested convention. It can all feel a bit too much for some.

"I'm anxious and not really in a good way," said James Horinek, 32, a Democrat in Lawton, Oklahoma, who works in marketing. "There's division across the board — there's too much on the Democratic side and too little on the Republican one."

Republicans, meanwhile, appear to share less of that angst, while their party hangs together on impeachment, the economy and other major issues on Trump's agenda.

"I am not nervous at all. I think Donald Trump will win it in a landslide," said Clinton Adams, a 39-year-old custodian in the Florida Panhandle.

The poll found that 43% of Republicans say they're excited about the election, up 10 percentage points from October. Meanwhile, 33% of Democrats reported excitement.

About three-quarters of both Democrats and Republicans say they are highly motivated to cast ballots this year. But that only raises the question of which emotion will be stronger in turning out the vote around the margins.

A party usually wants its voters excited rather than anxious, said George Marcus, a political scientist at Williams College who has studied the role of emotion in politics and polling. Marcus found that voters who report fear and anxiety are more likely to be confused and split their vote.

"It creates the possibility for persuasion," Marcus said of voter worry. "If I'm an anxious Democrat, I may stay home, I may vote Republican. ... You want your base to be either really angry at the other side or really enthusiastic."

Still, Marcus noted Democrats have a long way to go before Election Day. The selection of a nominee could calm jitters and stir up excitement for a candidate. Events could also shift GOP voters' confidence.

Anna Greenberg, a Democratic pollster, said the contrast between GOP excitement and Democratic anxiety and frustration is not a surprise.

"In general, supporters of the party in power are going to be more optimistic and hopeful, while supporters of the party out of power are going to be frustrated and angry," Greenberg said.

She also noted that Democrats have been stressed since Trump won the White House.

"Since Trump was elected, Democrats have been particularly anxious about both the idea of disinformation and election interference in 2020 and what could happen in a second Trump term," Greenberg said. However, she added, "there is no evidence that Democrats are any less enthusiastic about voting in 2020, and the results of the 2018 election would suggest that they are highly motivated to vote."

Indeed, the poll suggests that the feeling among Democrats might be a driver: About 9 in 10 anxious Democrats say they feel very motivated to vote this November, compared with about half of those who are not anxious.

Tim Farrell is one of those stressed-out Democrats who have been worried since Trump won in 2016. The 58-year-old social worker in Watertown, New York, says he's been "ill for the last three years."

He has little faith that voters will turn on Trump, but it's the ongoing impeachment trial in the Republican-controlled Senate that's raised his anxiety about November. "I'm dreading the expected outcome. He won't be convicted. He'll feel he's invulnerable, and he's an idiot with his finger on the button," Farrell said of the president.

Farrell expects to donate to whomever the party nominates, and indeed, that's one way Democratic anxiety may help their party. Eighteen percent of anxious Democrats say they've donated, compared with 5% of those who are not anxious.

Still, the stress doesn't feel good to Kathy Tuggle, a retired administrative assistant in Richmond, Indiana. She also dreads the implications of a Trump acquittal — that the president can recruit other countries to help his reelection — and worries about relaxed standards for truth in political ads on Facebook.

"I'm just not sure we can have a fair election right now," the 65-year-old Democrat said. "That's probably my biggest anxiety right now."

Domingo Rodriguez thinks these worries are ridiculous. The 75-year-old retired translator lives in Fort

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 69 of 71

Myers Beach, Florida, and, though he's not affiliated with either party, supports Trump. "I think Trump will win again. I'm not nervous," Rodriguez said, chuckling as he thought about Democrats' view of the election.

"They're absolutely anxious. For them it's a matter of life and death," said Rodriguez, who emigrated from Uruguay decades ago. Not for him, though. "I know I'm going to be living and existing and being in the great United States even if the Democrats win."

The AP-NORC poll of 1,353 adults was conducted Jan. 16-21 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.6 percentage points. Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods and later were interviewed online or by phone.

This corrects the spelling of Anna Greenberg's name.

Online:

AP-NORC Center: <http://www.apnorc.org/>

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

Federal Reserve proposes loosening rules on bank investments

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve approved a proposal Thursday to loosen a financial-crisis era rule that prevents banks from investing in venture capital funds.

The proposal would affect the so-called "Volcker Rule," which was created after the 2008 financial meltdown. The rule bars banks from trading with government-insured deposits in an effort to prevent the kind of excesses that led to the financial crisis and Great Recession. Thursday's proposal would clarify several aspects of the rule and follows a previous loosening of the Volcker Rule last fall.

The draft rule would exempt venture capital funds from the Volcker Rule's provision that bars banks from investing in hedge or private equity funds.

The proposal was approved by the Fed's governors on a 4-1 vote, with Fed Chairman Jerome Powell supporting the change.

Fed Governor Lael Brainard opposed the proposal, arguing that it would "weaken core protections in the Volcker rule and enable banking firms again to engage in high-risk activities."

The Fed argues that banks can already make direct investments in startup companies and that the rule change would simply allow them to do it indirectly through a venture capital fund.

Powell said Thursday that regulators have six years' experience with the Volcker Rule, and "we have learned that a simpler, clearer approach to implementing the rule makes it easier for both banks and regulators."

During a press conference Wednesday, Powell said the changes are "consistent with safety and soundness and absolutely consistent with the spirit of the Volcker rule."

But Brainard argued that the changes would allow banks to invest in riskier credit funds, which pool money to provide long-term loans.

"Some credit funds played a material role in the financial crisis," Brainard said. "These funds were not transparent in their activities, misled investors, and contributed to the financial abuses Congress intended to address" with its post-crisis regulatory reforms.

The proposal was drafted jointly with four other regulatory agencies and will be open to public comment until April 1.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 70 of 71

Today is Friday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 2020. There are 335 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 31, 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite, Explorer 1, from Cape Canaveral.

On this date:

In 1863, during the Civil War, the First South Carolina Volunteers, an all-black Union regiment composed of many escaped slaves, was mustered into federal service at Beaufort, South Carolina.

In 1865, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution abolishing slavery, sending it to states for ratification. (The amendment was adopted in December 1865.) Gen. Robert E. Lee was named general-in-chief of the Confederate States Army by President Jefferson Davis.

In 1917, during World War I, Germany served notice that it was beginning a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.

In 1919, baseball Hall-of-Famer Jackie Robinson was born in Cairo (KAY'-roh), Ga.

In 1929, revolutionary Leon Trotsky and his family were expelled from the Soviet Union.

In 1945, Pvt. Eddie Slovik, 24, became the first U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion as he was shot by an American firing squad in France.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman announced he had ordered development of the hydrogen bomb.

In 1971, astronauts Alan Shepard, Edgar Mitchell and Stuart Roosa blasted off aboard Apollo 14 on a mission to the moon.

In 1990, McDonald's Corp. opened its first fast-food restaurant in Moscow.

In 2000, an Alaska Airlines MD-83 jet crashed into the Pacific Ocean off Port Hueneme (wy-NEE'-mee), California, killing all 88 people aboard.

In 2001, a Scottish court sitting in the Netherlands convicted one Libyan, acquitted a second, in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. (Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi (AHB'-dehl BAH'-seht AH'-lee ahl-meh-GRAH'-hee) was given a life sentence, but was released after eight years on compassionate grounds by Scotland's government. He died in 2012.)

In 2007, some three dozen blinking electronic devices planted around Boston threw a scare into the city in what turned out to be a marketing campaign for the Cartoon Network TV show "Aqua Teen Hunger Force."

Ten years ago: The annual World Economic Forum concluded a five-day meeting in Davos, Switzerland, with widespread agreement that a fragile recovery was under way but no consensus on what was going to spur job growth. Roger Federer beat Andy Murray 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (11) for a fourth Australian Open championship. Beyonce became the first woman to win six Grammy Awards in one night; Taylor Swift won four Grammys, including album of the year, for "Fearless."

Five years ago: Bobbi Kristina Brown, the daughter of the late singer Whitney Houston, was found unresponsive in a bathtub at her Georgia townhome and was taken to an Atlanta-area hospital. She died six months later.

One year ago: A day after he lashed out at U.S. intelligence agency chiefs over their assessments of global threats, President Donald Trump reversed course and said that he and the intelligence community were "all on the same page." He said they told him that their testimony at a Senate hearing had been "mischaracterized" by the news media. The polar vortex that brought many cities in the upper Midwest to a standstill marched east, spreading arctic conditions over an area from Buffalo to Brooklyn.

Today's Birthdays: Composer Philip Glass is 83. Former Interior Secretary James Watt is 82. Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, the former queen regent, is 82. Actor Stuart Margolin is 80. Actress Jessica Walter is 79. Former U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., is 79. Blues singer-musician Charlie Musselwhite is 76. Actor Glynn Turman is 73. Baseball Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan is 73. Actor Jonathan Banks is 73. Singer-musician Harry Wayne Casey (KC and the Sunshine Band) is 69. Rock singer Johnny Rotten is 64. Actress Kelly Lynch is 61. Actor Anthony LaPaglia is 61. Singer-musician Lloyd Cole is 59. Actress Paulette Braxton is 55. Rock musician Al Jaworski (Jesus Jones) is 54. Actress Minnie Driver is 50. Actress Portia de Rossi is 47. Actor-comedian Bobby Moynihan is 43. Actress Kerry Washington is 43. Bluegrass singer-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 213 ~ 71 of 71

musician Becky Buller is 41. Singer Justin Timberlake is 39. Actor Tyler Ritter is 35. Country singer Tyler Hubbard (Florida Georgia Line) is 33. Folk-rock singer-musician Marcus Mumford (Mumford and Sons) is 33. Actor Joel Courtney is 24.

Thought for Today: "Happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have." — Rabbi Hyman Judah Schachtel, American theologian, author and educator (1907-1990).

Copyright 2020, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.