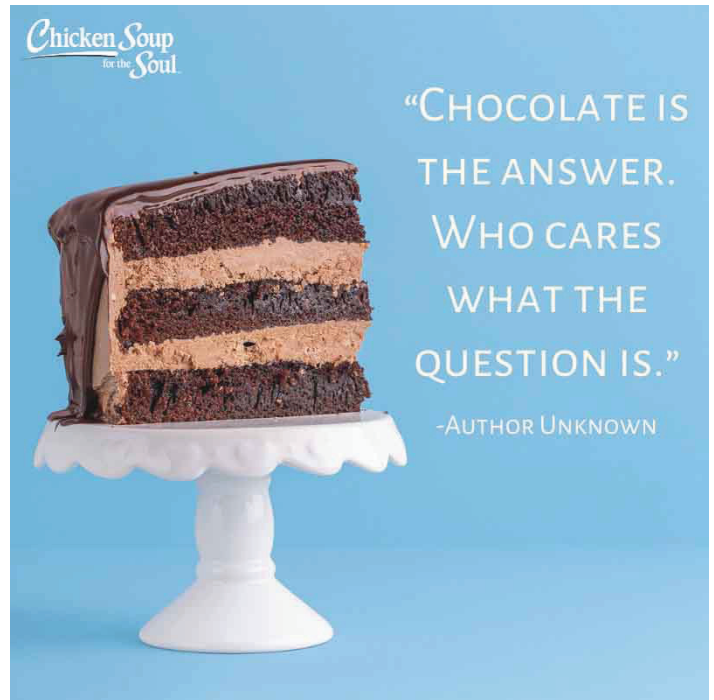


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## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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## Sunday Extras



### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Whoever mocks the poor  
shows contempt for  
their Maker; whoever  
gloats over disaster  
will not go unpunished.*

PROVERBS 17:5 

Detail of lithograph by Käthe Kollwitz (1924)



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Swamp Thing

## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Galatians in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Which book could be summarized, "Pay attention, God has a master plan in the works we need to be a part of"? *Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel*

3. From Judges 7, who had the barley-cake vision tumbling into an army camp overturning a tent? *Shepherd, Soldier, Peasant, Steward*

4. After an angel delivered them from a Jerusalem prison, where did the apostles go? *Temple, Fields, Mountaintop, River*

5. Who had his servants set barley crops on fire because he refused to meet with Absalom? *Job, Joab, Jethro, Jehoshabeath*

6. From Acts 12, where did Peter encounter an angel? *Tent door, Prison, City gate, Temple*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Isaiah; 3) Soldier; 4) Temple; 5) Joab; 6) Prison

*Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.*

## Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

### Oriental Chicken Express

Today, Chinese dishes are almost as American as apple pie! This filling main dish is no exception.

- 1 1/4 cups diagonally sliced celery*
- 1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper*
- 1/4 cup diced green onion*
- 1 (16-ounce) can fat-free chicken broth*
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour*
- 1 tablespoon reduced-sodium soy sauce*
- 1 1/2 cups diced cooked chicken breast*
- 1 (8-ounce) can sliced water chestnuts, drained*
- 1 (8-ounce) can pineapple chunks, packed in fruit juice, drained*
- 3 cups hot cooked rice*

1. In a large skillet sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray, saute celery, green pepper and onion just until tender. In a covered jar, combine chicken broth and flour. Shake well to blend. Pour broth mixture into skillet with vegetables. Stir in soy sauce.

2. Continue cooking over medium heat, until mixture starts to thicken, stirring often. Add chicken, water chestnuts and pineapple. Mix well to combine. Lower heat and simmer for 5 minutes or until mixture is heated through, stirring often.

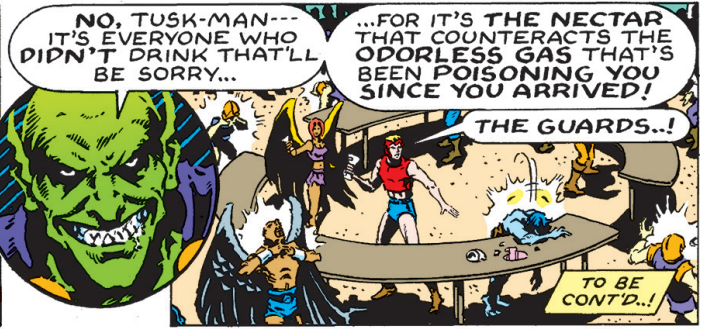
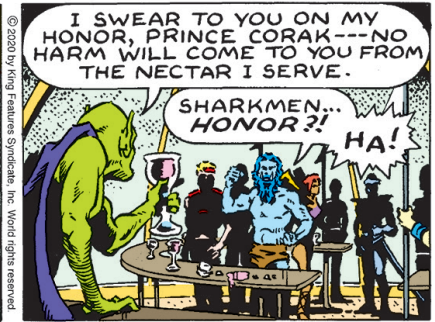
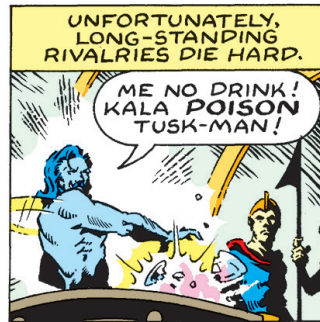
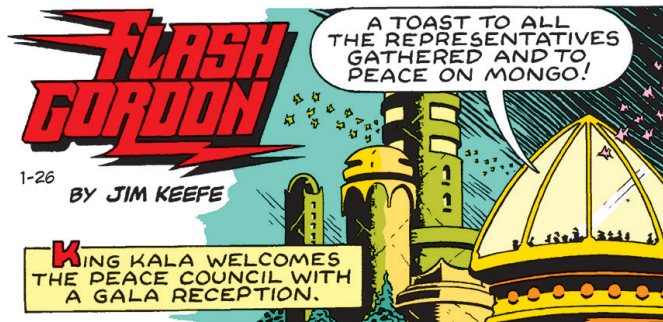
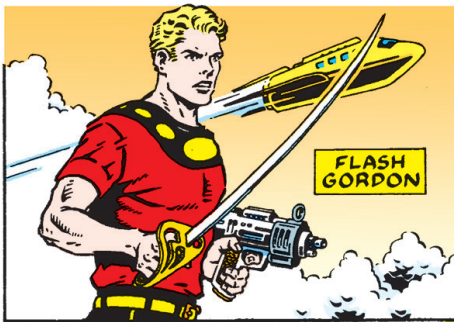
3. For each serving, spoon 1/2 cup hot rice on a plate and spoon about 1 cup chicken mixture over top. Serves 6.

• Each serving equals: 214 calories, 2g fat, 16g protein, 33g carb., 298mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1 1/2 Meat, 1 Vegetable.

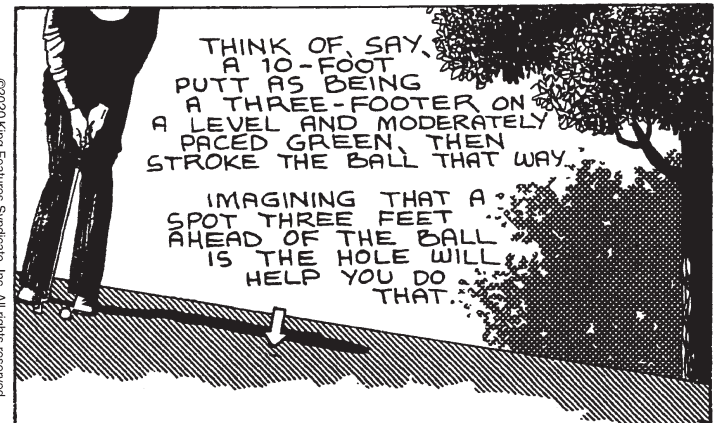
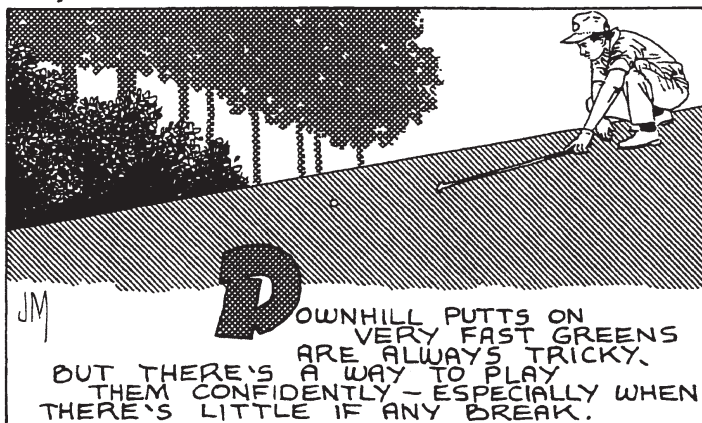


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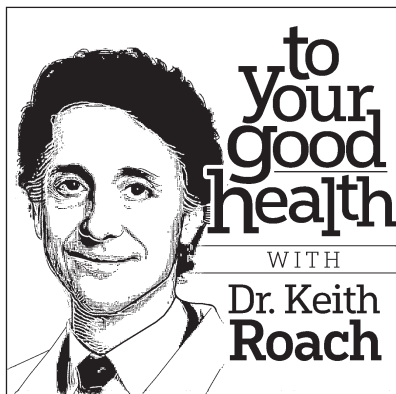
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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS







## Sneezing Can Provoke This Unusual Vertigo

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** After many years of various treatments, including allergy shots, food studies and an ear tube, I was recently diagnosed with “semicircular canal dehiscence.” Can you explain what this is and the treatment (besides surgery) to relieve the symptoms of inner ear pressure, dizziness and pressure and pulsation in the head? Are there any medications? — *J.D.W.*

**ANSWER:** Semicircular canal dehiscence syndrome is an unusual cause of vertigo. Vertigo is sometimes referred to as dizziness, but “dizziness” may refer to both unsteadiness (a feeling that you are going to pass out, which medically is referred to as “presyncope”) or true vertigo (a sensation of movement when the person is actually still). The vertigo in semicircular canal dehiscence syndrome is different from most other causes of vertigo because it can be provoked by loud noises, coughing or sneezing. It is caused by abnormally thin bone in the semicircular canals, part of the organ of balance in the inner ear. The diagnosis is confirmed by a CT scan of the temporal bone.

The only treatment I have read that consistently is effective is surgery. An ear tube is sometimes tried in people who have symptoms with pressure changes. Medications used in some cases of vertigo, such as meclizine (Antivert), usually will make SCDS symptoms worse in the long term. Anti-nausea medications like ondansetron (Zofran) may help if nausea is severe, but have their own side effects. Vestibular rehabilitation by a specially trained physical or occupational therapist may have some benefit if surgery isn't contemplated.

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** My father is 72 years old. This year he was diagnosed with an enlarged prostate. For now, the doctor has inserted a catheter. My question is: What process or what treatment is best at his age? We are in the Philippines. — *M.M.C.*

**ANSWER:** Enlargement of the prostate gland is a common problem for men in their 70s and older. Sometimes it gets so bad that a man cannot urinate at all or the pressure in the bladder is at risk of damaging the kidney. In those cases, a catheter often is used as a temporizing measure. Unfortunately, a catheter causes inflammation, so it may actually worsen the prostate problem temporarily while still protecting the kidneys. Because of this, the catheter usually needs to be kept in only for about one to two weeks.

During this time, medication usually is started to try to reduce prostate size. For most men, a benign (not cancerous) enlarged prostate can be treated with medication — an alpha blocker, like tamsulosin, sometimes with a second medicine, like finasteride. If that doesn't work, there are several surgical options.

His doctor needs to be sure that the enlarged prostate isn't cancer. A physical exam and blood tests may answer that question; other times, a biopsy is needed.

There is no best treatment for everyone. It depends on how large his prostate is, any other medical problems he may have and the expertise of the doctor treating him.

In the United States, the options include a traditional surgery, called a transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP); laser-based treatments; other heat-based treatments (microwave, water vapor ablation and radiowave); and even more newer treatments that are less well-studied. In general, medical therapy is worth a try for most men before considering surgery.

\*\*\*

*Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).*



1. Which group began as Fat City and then Bill & Taffy? (Hint: They eventually had a short-lived TV show.)
2. Who wrote and released “Knock on Wood”?
3. Which one-hit wonder released “It Never Rains in Southern California”?
4. Name the singer who started as a Los Angeles Lakers cheerleader.
5. Name the 1972 song that contains this lyric: “Please swallow your pride if I have things you need to borrow, For no one can fill those of your needs that you won't let show.”

### Answers

1. Starland Vocal Band. Their “Afternoon Delight” won Best Arrangement for Voices and Best New Artist Grammy awards in 1977.
2. Eddie Floyd, in 1966. Co-writer Steve Cropper says the song was written on a stormy night, hence the “It's like thunder, lightning” lyrics.
3. U.K.-born Albert Hammond. He did, however, produce excellent songs for others, including “One Moment in Time” and “To All the Girls I've Loved Before.”
4. Paula Abdul.
5. “Lean on Me,” by Bill Withers. Withers wrote the song after moving to California and finding that he missed being in his hometown. Club Nouveau released a reggae dance version in 1987.

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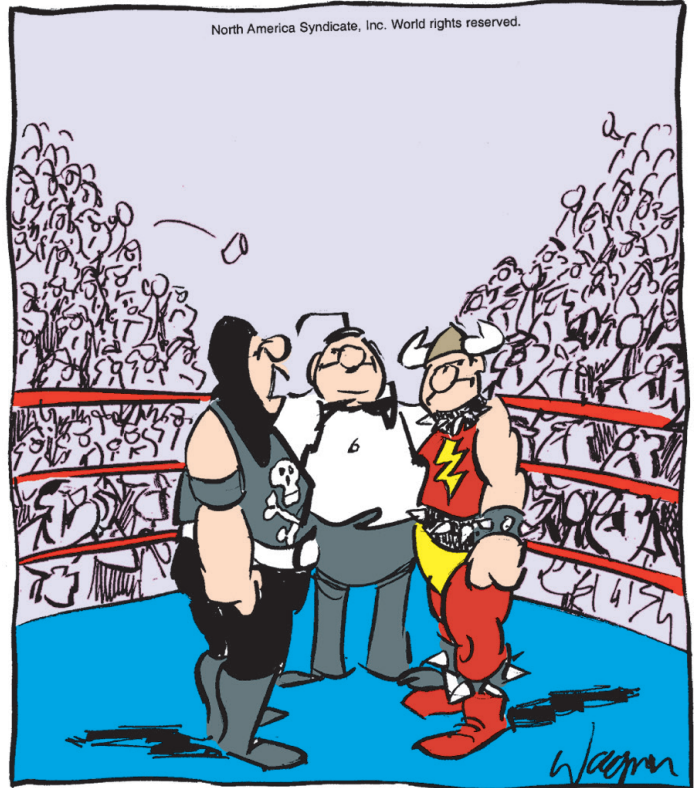
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## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## GRIN and BEAR IT



"MAN, wrestling fans scare the heck out of me!"

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Apron is longer. 2. Earmuffs are removed. 3. Fence is shorter. 4. Door window is lower. 5. Footprint is missing. 6. Bow is added.





- A squirt of shaving cream can help release latex paint specks on your hands from using a roller brush. Just rub over hands and rinse.

- Baked apples (or stuffed peppers) will stay perfectly upright if you set them into the wells of a muffin tin.

- Make your own bath oil by mixing a couple of drops of your favorite perfume with a bit of baby oil. Just rub on post-bath or add to your bathwater.

- “Recently I cooked a big batch of broccoli in the afternoon. The house had that cabbage smell. I don’t like air

fresheners because the strong smell gives me a headache. My neighbor told me to boil a couple of cups of vinegar and let it simmer for 10 minutes. At first, the vinegar smell replaced the cabbage smell, but then it totally disappeared and all the smells were gone too.” — *E.Y. in Pennsylvania*

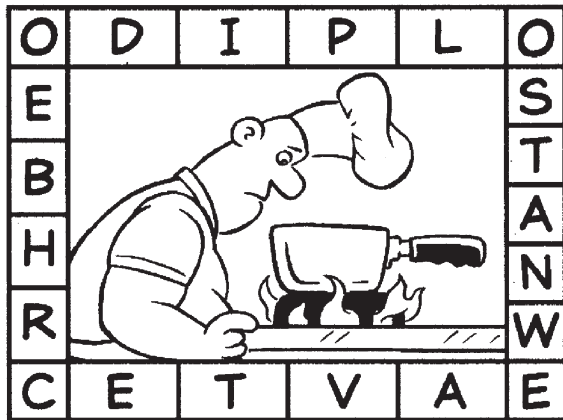
- “Use your vegetable peeler to make strips of butter if it’s cold and you need to spread it on bread. The strips’ large amount of surface area help the butter to soften quickly, making it easy to spread.” — *M.M. in Texas*

- “Get king-size pillowcases from a thrift store to cover a diaper changing pad. They are the right size and cheap!” — *D.L. in Florida*

*Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.*

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**HIDDEN** in the above frame is a proverb. Find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

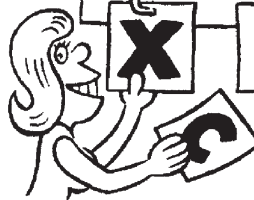
Starting with the "A" on the right vertical column: "A watched pot never boils."

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

### QUESTION

WHAT TWO LETTERS SPELL "TO DO BETTER"?



Illustrated by David Coulson

### KNOW YOUR ALPHABET!

SEE IF you can answer the following questions by using just two letters from the alphabet.

### WHAT TWO LETTERS SPELL...

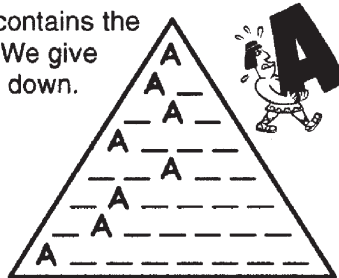
1. a winter condition?
2. a kind of pepper?
3. to rot away?
4. overindulgence?
5. a climbing plant?
6. a literary composition?
7. how a dieter feels?
8. aesthetic pretensions?
9. no matter which?
10. an English county?

1. IC (icy), 2. KN (cayenne), 3. DK (decay), 4. XS (excess), 5. IV (ivy), 6. SA (essay), 7. MT (empty), 8. RT (arty), 9. NE (any), 10. SX (Essex).

**FIND A CERTAIN** 10-digit number: The first digit must be the same as the number of 0s in the entire number, the second digit must be the same as the number of 1s in the entire number, and so on through the 10th digit. One solution is 62170001000.

**SAY "A"!** As you go down the pyramid, each word contains the same letters as the word above it plus a new letter. We give you all of the A's. Here are some hints, from the top down.

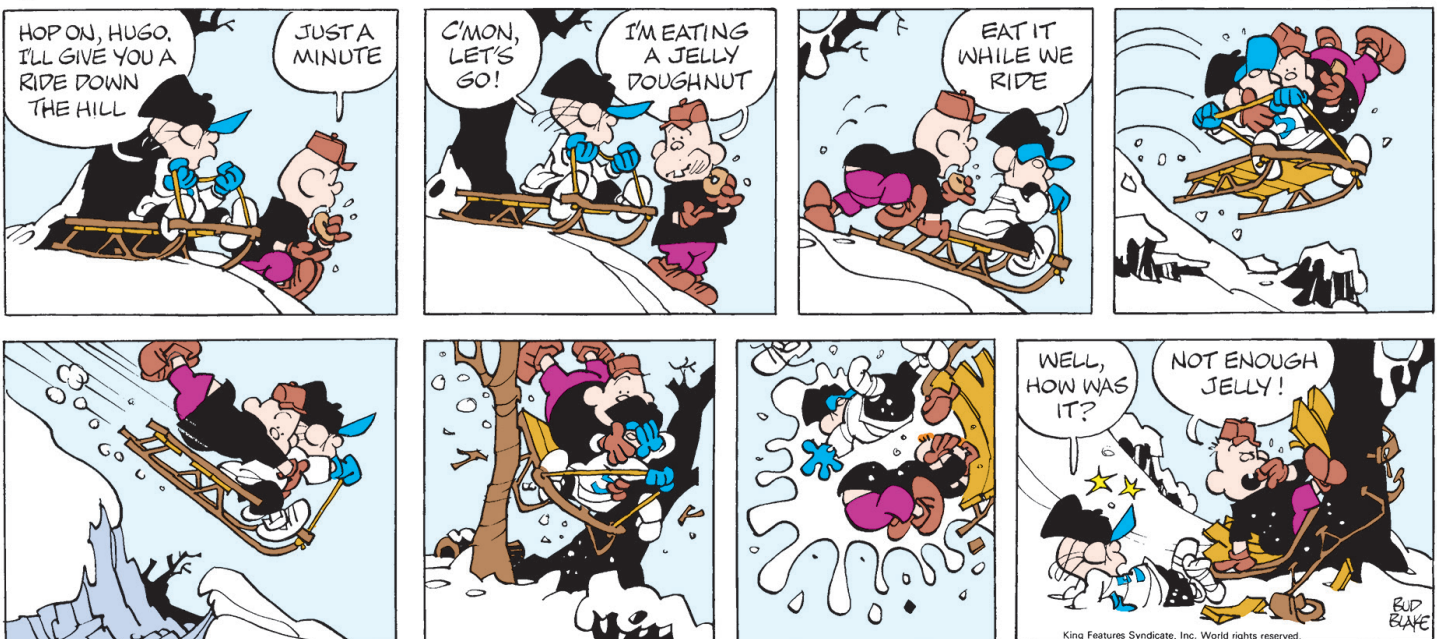
- 1) Highest grade (given).
- 2) In or near.
- 3) A color.
- 4) To be opposed.
- 5) Big person.
- 6) Position of a scale.
- 7) Rodent-hunter's activity.
- 8) Getting dressed.



The words are: a, at, fan, anti, giant, rattling, rattling, rattling.

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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BUD BLAKE



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Move like molasses
- 5 High card
- 8 Judicial garment
- 12 Place for sports reporters
- 14 Vivacity
- 15 Aware
- 16 Flex
- 17 Do sums
- 18 Kindle downloads
- 20 Sew loosely
- 23 Liveliness, in music
- 24 Wheelbase terminus
- 25 Obama's old title

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |    | 5  | 6  | 7  |    | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 17 |    |    |    | 18 | 19 |    |    |    |    |
| 20 | 21 | 22 |    |    |    | 23 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 24 |    |    |    |    | 25 |    |    |    |    | 26 | 27 |    |
| 28 |    |    |    | 29 |    |    |    |    |    | 30 |    | 31 |
|    | 32 |    | 33 |    |    |    |    |    | 34 |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 35 |    |    |    |    |    | 36 |    |    |    |
| 37 | 38 | 39 |    |    |    |    | 40 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 41 |    |    |    |    | 42 | 43 |    |    |    | 44 | 45 | 46 |
| 47 |    |    |    |    | 48 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 49 |    |    |    |    | 50 |    |    |    |    | 51 |    |    |

- |                          |                                |                         |                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 28 — de Janeiro          | sample                         | 8 Start the PC up again | 31 Coloring agent      |
| 29 Hawaiian dances       | 48 One of three rulers         | 9 Bread spread          | 33 Idea                |
| 30 Deity                 | 49 Paradise                    | 10 Savings institution  | 34 Gas bill units      |
| 32 Dakar's country       | 50 Tree fluid                  | 11 Make — meet          | 36 Commandment starter |
| 34 Salver                | 51 Harmonization               | 13 Faction              | 37 Commanded           |
| 35 Bacchanalian blast    | <b>DOWN</b>                    | 19 Prejudice            | 38 On the rocks        |
| 36 Yonder                | 1 Wife of Saturn               | 20 Tavern               | 39 Chess or checkers   |
| 37 Hallux, more commonly | 2 Raw rock                     | 21 Line of symmetry     | 40 Use scissors        |
| 40 That girl             | 3 Buddhist sect                | 22 — gin fizz           | 43 Historic time       |
| 41 "Superfood" berry     | 4 Mansion and its surroundings | 23 Stop, at sea         | 44 Wall climber        |
| 42 Mexican miss          | 5 Sleeping                     | 25 Hints at             | 45 Can metal           |
| 47 Showroom              | 6 Opposed                      | 26 Shrek is one         | 46 Joan of —           |
|                          | 7 Outer                        | 27 Bellow               |                        |
|                          |                                | 29 Medal earner         |                        |

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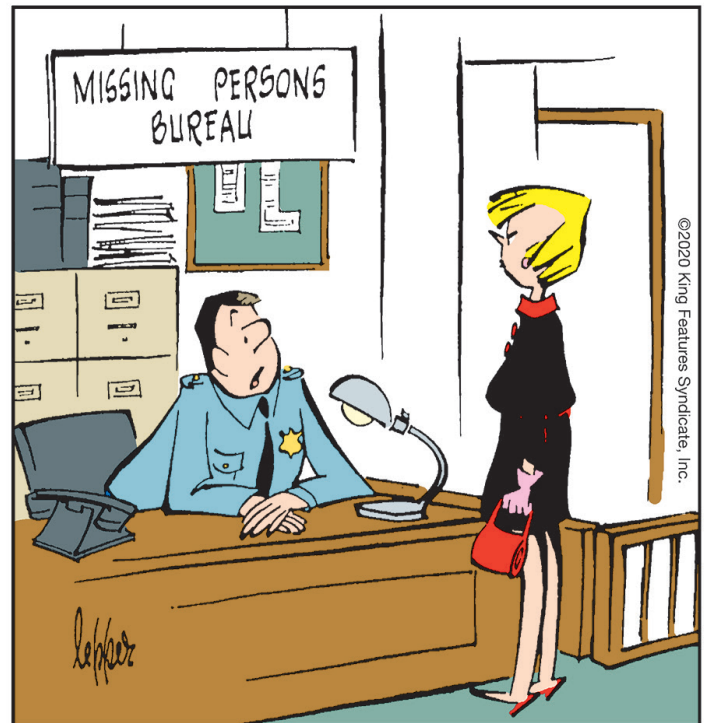
## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | O | Z | E |   | A | C | E |   | R | O | B | E |
| P | R | E | S | S | B | O | X |   | E | L | A | N |
| S | E | N | T | I | E | N | T |   | B | E | N | D |
|   |   |   | A | D | D |   | E | B | O | O | K | S |
| B | A | S | T | E |   | B | R | I | O |   |   |   |
| A | X | L | E |   | S | E | N | A | T | O | R |   |
| R | I | O |   | H | U | L | A | S |   | G | O | D |
|   | S | E | N | E | G | A | L |   | T | R | A | Y |
|   |   |   | O | R | G | Y |   | T | H | E | R | E |
| B | I | G | T | O | E |   | S | H | E |   |   |   |
| A | C | A | I |   | S | E | N | O | R | I | T | A |
| D | E | M | O |   | T | R | I | U | M | V | I | R |
| E | D | E | N |   | S | A | P |   | S | Y | N | C |

## LAFF - A - DAY



"Sorry, lady, we can't help you find a husband unless you lose one first."

## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

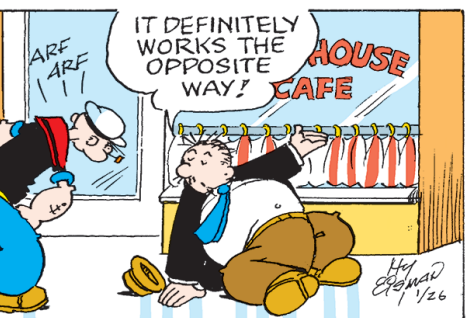
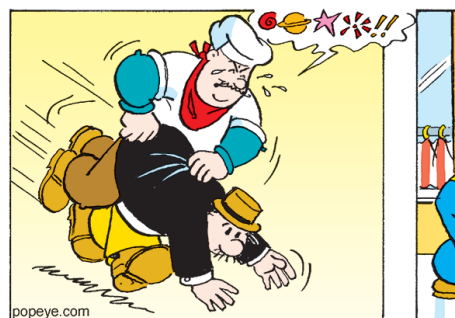
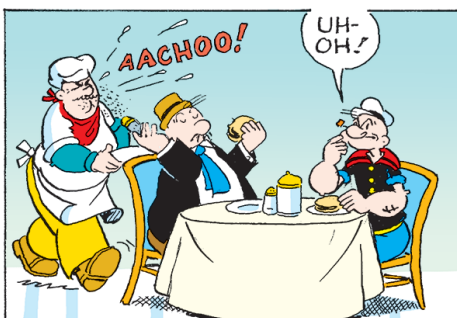
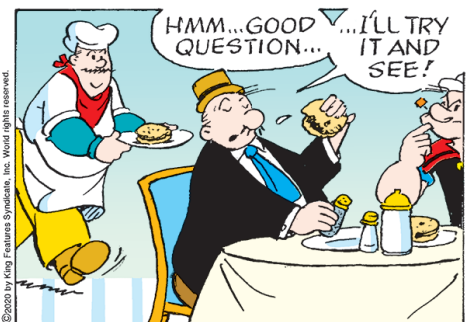
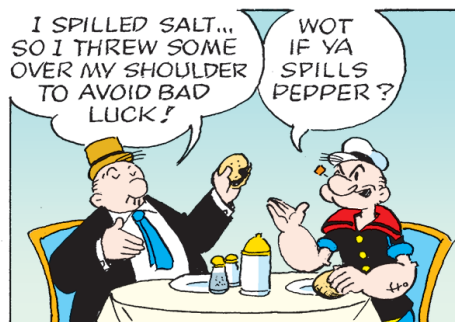
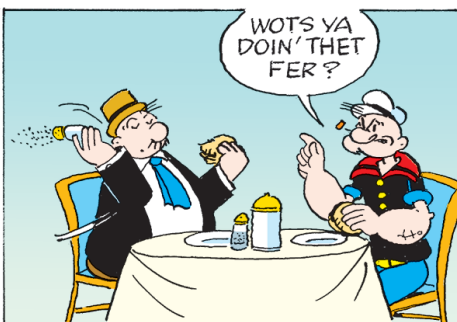
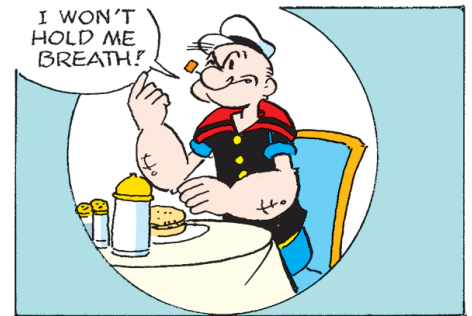
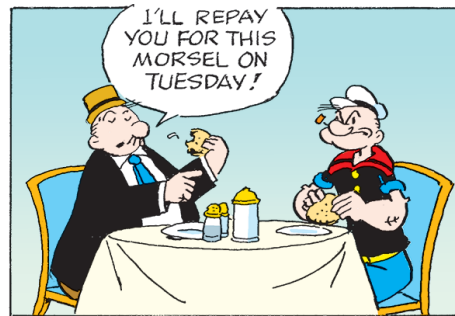
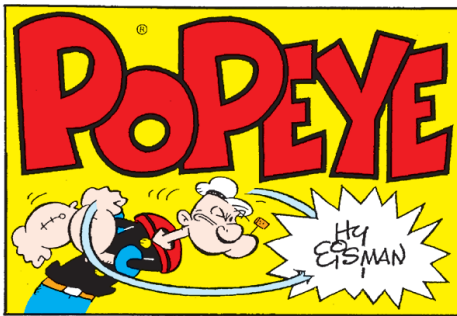


POLAR  
OPPOSITES



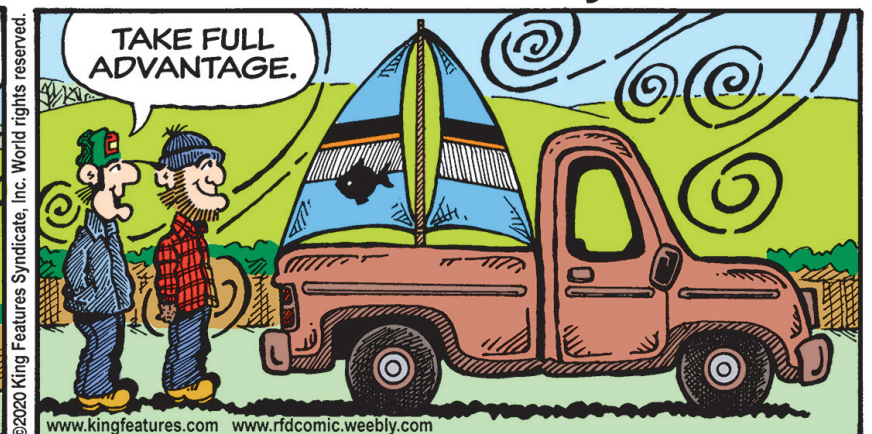
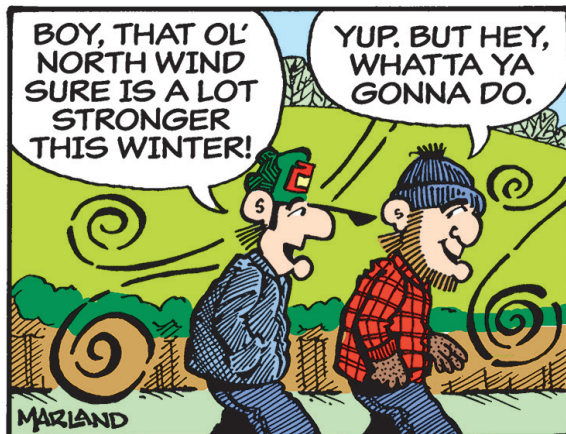
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## R.F.D.

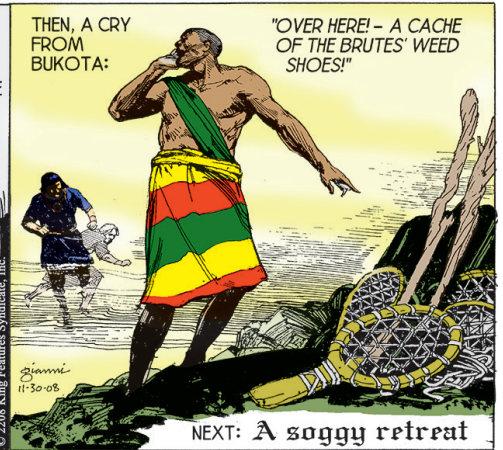
by Mike Marland





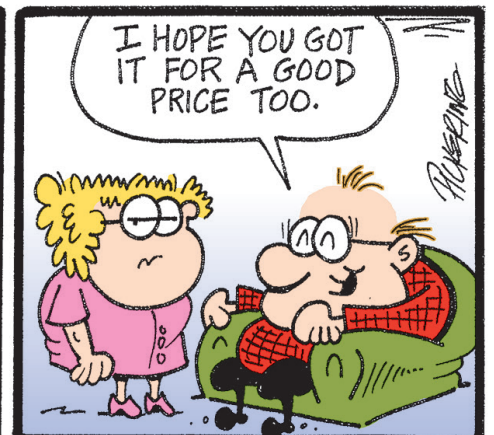
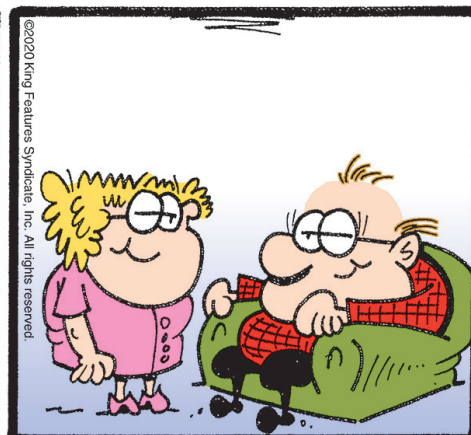
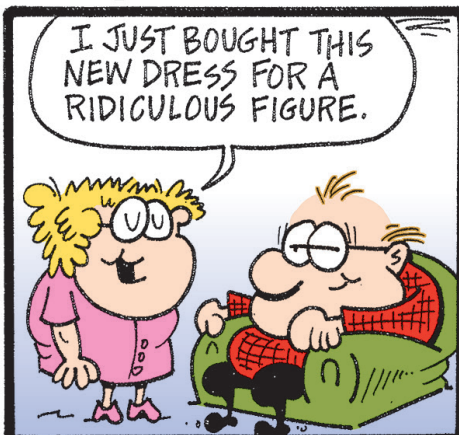
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## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### The Flu and You

Here we are, halfway through winter, and the flu season is in full swing. As of now all 50 states have widespread levels of flu. And at this point far too many people still haven't gotten their flu shot.

The senior version of the shot (for those over age 65) has four times the amount of vaccine of three of the four types ... two A and one B. While this isn't ideal (it's still missing one B), it's what we have. The high-dose vaccine was created to give our bodies a high immune response. Because of our age, we're in the high-risk group for complications, even if we don't have any medical concerns. Seniors had more hospitalizations from flu than any other age group.

At this writing there have been more than 6,000 deaths from the flu. How many of these could have been avoided by getting the flu shot?

One big concern is that it's possible to be contagious and pass the flu to others days before someone starts to feel sick. Going to the grocery store, attending church, reading to kids at the elementary school ... there are too many opportunities to give the flu to others (or have them give it to you) before anyone even suspects they have it.

But it's not too late to get the shot. Even if it doesn't keep you from getting the flu, it will keep you from getting as sick as you might have.

A delay can arise in areas where they've temporarily run out of the flu vaccine. Don't let that stop you. To get your flu shot, call your doctor's office, call the local pharmacies and call the closest senior center. You'll find the vaccine somewhere.

No matter what, wash your hands frequently and keep them away from your face.

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1. When was the last time the Pittsburgh Pirates won 100 or more games in a season?

2. The 1933 New York Yankees had nine future Hall of Famers on their roster. Name four of them.

3. Which two college football teams hold the record for most points (70) scored in a bowl game?

4. Who is the Portland Trail Blazers' all-time leader in career blocked shots?

5. Goalie Jordan Binnington set a St. Louis Blues franchise rookie record with 24 victories in the 2018-19 season. Who had held the mark?

6. When Germany was split into two countries that competed separately in the Olympics (1968-88), which one captured the most medals?

7. Name the last Australian female golfer before Hannah Green in 2019 (Women's PGA Championship) to win an LPGA major.

1. It was 1909, when they went 110-42.

2. Earle Combs, Bill Dickey, Lou Gehrig, Lefty Gomez, Tony Lazzeri, Herb Pennock, Red Ruffing, Babe Ruth and Joe Sewell.

3. Army (2018) and West Virginia (2012).

4. Mychal Thompson, with 768 blocked shots (1978-86).

5. Jake Allen had 22 wins as a rookie in the 2014-15 season.

6. East Germany won 519 total medals; West Germany 243.

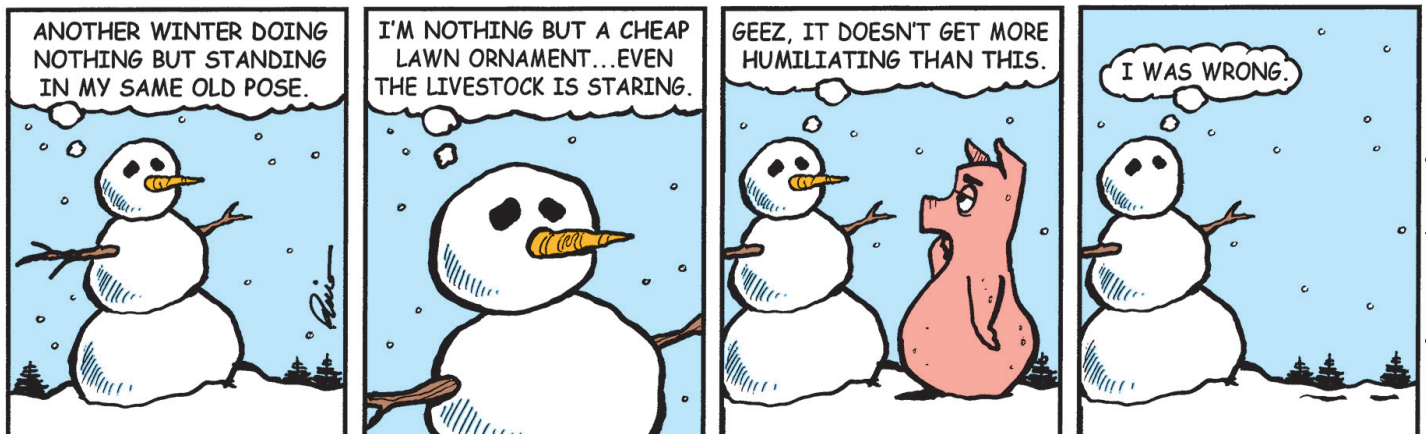
7. Karrie Webb, in 2006.

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## Answers

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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CONGRESSMAN  
**DUSTY JOHNSON**  
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



## The Value of Good Reporting

On days I'm home in South Dakota, I sit down for my morning bowl of Wheaties and flip through our local papers. This week, as I ate my bowl of cereal, I came across a well-researched and well-written article. The title was: "Effort begins to reduce risk of death of South Dakota mothers during childbirth." It was written by local reporter Nick Lowrey from South Dakota News Watch and placed in many papers throughout the state.

It struck me for two reasons – one, it's shocking because even as one of the most developed nations in the world, our mothers are dying during childbirth at the highest rate, and two, because the very next day I would be attending a congressional committee hearing on the same topic.

It's important I go prepared to these hearings and the Education and Labor Committee does a fantastic job sending memos to ensure everyone is up to speed. The information is always helpful, but it's not typically South Dakota specific. That's where Nick's article came in – because of his reporting I walked into that hearing knowing 60% of maternal deaths are preventable, that maternal "pregnancy-associated" deaths in South Dakota averaged 7.2 per year between 2010 and 2018, and nine South Dakota mothers died within a year of giving birth in 2018 alone.

To be frank, these are terrible statistics and hard to read. When I attended the Education and Labor hearing on maternal health, I was able to include Nick's article in the Congressional Record for the rest of the committee and our entire nation to reference. There are several reasons the U.S. has seen an increase in maternal deaths – higher rates of obesity and diabetes, as well as giving birth at older ages have all played a role. According to Nick's research, South Dakota does not keep data on severe pregnancy complications. During this week's hearing, the witnesses expressed continuous concerns over the lack of information on maternal complications.

We can't solve a problem if we can't understand it.

There are new protocols being put into place, though, and hospitals like Sanford are working on their own set of practices to improve the safety of mothers. There is much work to be done across the U.S. and it may take years, but I'm glad organizations throughout the country and Congress are working to tackle this issue.

Investigative reporting plays a crucial role in exposing flaws in our many systems – and in this case, articles like Nick's may help save lives. We're living in a time where click-bait articles are taking over our news feeds – but I'm grateful South Dakota's journalists are focused on news that matters.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR  
**KRISTI NOEM**



## Strengthening Rural South Dakota

In early January, along with two South Dakota producers, I was honored to be at the White House as President Trump locked in a new trade deal with China. The new U.S.-China trade agreement includes a promise to purchase approximately \$80 billion of ag products over the next two years. This is a strong step forward for South Dakota's ag community.

I think South Dakota soybean and corn producer Jerry Schmitz said it best: "The pioneer spirit lives on in South Dakota agriculture, and today's agreement could very well be the new horizon we need to extend our operations and continue producing the food, feed, fiber, and fuel for the world."

We landed another win later in January when President Trump signed the United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) agreement. While in Congress, I worked on this trade agreement to bring a new, modern approach to trade with two of our closest allies.

Each year, South Dakota exports more than \$900 million worth of goods to Canada and Mexico. The USMCA rebalances and transforms the agreement into a 21st century, high-standard trade deal that ensures our goods are sold in a marketplace that is fair, open, and competitive.

Here in South Dakota, we're also working to implement policies that help operations and rural communities succeed.

Rural development projects are vital to the long-term success of our small towns, communities, and the families that keep them strong. During my State of the State Address, I said we are rolling out the red carpet, not the red tape.

Recently, I announced a plan that creates a fairer, more predictable process for those who want to create or expand their operations in our state. Too often, permitting and appeals processes are lengthy, unfair, and unpredictable. If we're going to push economic progress and preserve the health of our small communities, this legislation is critical.

To learn more about our efforts, visit [facebook.com/govnoem](https://facebook.com/govnoem).



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## Working for South Dakotans

While the Senate is conducting the impeachment trial, we are unable to hold votes on the full Senate floor without agreement of all 100 senators. So all other Senate business has virtually come to a halt. Important nominations are not being confirmed and legislation is not being considered that could benefit South Dakota families. While this is frustrating to many of us, we are still able to get some work done while we're not in the trial. Most days, the trial has started

at 1:00 p.m., allowing us to hold committee hearings and meet with constituents until that time. We're also continuing to get work done for South Dakotans in other ways, just as we have since I took office.

My office frequently works with residents who are having trouble with different federal agencies. We can act as a liaison between you and the agency to identify the source of your issue and help to resolve it. We call this type of service "casework," and it is actually the main focus of my offices in Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Aberdeen. Our staff members at those offices are specially trained to help South Dakotans navigate the federal bureaucracy.

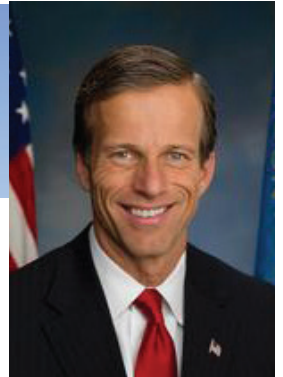
We're also continuing to respond to South Dakotans who have contacted my office to share their thoughts and views with me. Since I took office in January 2015, we have responded to over 147,000 inquiries from South Dakotans. That averages out to around 80 phone calls, emails, letters or personal visits per day over the past five years. Hearing firsthand the views and opinions of South Dakotans keeps me better informed as I work to make the best decisions for our state and nation.

The number of folks contacting us to help them with a federal agency continues to grow. In 2019, we opened more than 500 new cases. We work with people on issues they're having at various different agencies, the most common being the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). We frequently assist people with visas and passports, we help veterans access their benefits from the VA and we help to make sure seniors are receiving their correct social security benefits—these are just a few examples of the types of cases we handle.

One of the biggest issues we've heard about from South Dakotans is getting H-2B visa workers to help with seasonal, temporary jobs in the tourism and construction industries. Without these temporary employees, many businesses in our state would be in danger of closing permanently because of the low number of available South Dakotans to work in these jobs. I recently led 188 of my congressional colleagues in a letter to the administration urging them to increase the statutory cap of available H-2B visas for the remainder of fiscal year 2020. The administration already has congressional authorization to release these visas, so we want to make sure they do so as soon as possible. 64,716 additional visas should be available for U.S. employers who need workers. We work on a lot of casework that involves expediting H-2B visas for workers coming to South Dakota. Last year, we helped a Sioux Falls landscaping company expedite H-2B visas for five workers that the company needed in order to finish work before winter.

Please reach out if you're having any issues with any federal agency. We will do our best to find a resolution to your situation. Give us a call or stop in to one of our offices if you have any questions about the work we do for South Dakotans. All our location and contact information can be found on my website, [www.rounds.senate.gov](http://www.rounds.senate.gov).

**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## New Law Finally Puts Illegal Robocallers on Notice

If you're a Seinfeld fan like me, you probably remember the episode where Jerry receives a phone call from a telemarketer, interrupting his conversation with other characters on the show. Jerry tells the person on the other end of the line that he's busy, but says that if the telemarketer shares his home phone number, he would call him back later. The telemarketer says he won't do that, and Jerry asks, "I guess you don't want people calling you at home?" When he agrees, Jerry says, "Well, now you know how I feel."

Jerry's sentiment is something we all can relate to, and maybe you've even used his strategy a time or two when you've received an unwanted robocall or telemarketing call over the years.

As technology has evolved, traditional telemarketing calls have gone from a landline ringing during dinner to relentless, downright annoying – and sometimes illegal – phone calls that are barraging our home, work, and mobile phones at all hours of the day. I receive them. My friends receive them. Even my 100-year-old dad has received them.

For some people, the situation has gotten so bad that they've chosen to simply stop answering the phone all together. That's an unacceptable position for Americans to feel forced into, particularly if they're sacrificing answering legitimate calls in order to avoid the annoying nuisance ones.

While no one with a phone is immune to robocalls, some people are specifically targeted, often vulnerable populations like the elderly. If you don't know someone who's been tricked by one of these scammers, you've probably seen a story on the news or read about it online or in the newspaper. These guys will stop at nothing. Well, hopefully, until now.

As I travel around South Dakota, I get a good sense of what's on folks' minds. As the hot-button issues of the day change, the feedback I hear from people often changes, too. One issue that has never seemed to change, though, is the outrage people feel toward illegal robocallers.

Having been on the receiving end of these calls myself, I tried to harness this collective outrage when I drafted the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, or TRACED Act, to formally put these scammers on notice. As Frank Costanza said during the annual "airing of grievances" on Seinfeld, "I've got a lot of problems with you people, and now you're going to hear about it!"

This bipartisan bill is actually pretty straightforward. First, it gives federal agencies more authority to go after illegal robocallers, including by increasing the window in which they're able to levy fines, and it significantly increases the amount robocallers can be fined in that expanded window. Second, it requires federal regulators to finalize rules that will require most carriers to adopt technology that will prevent these calls from reaching consumers in the first place. Finally, among other common-sense fixes, my bill adds teeth to the law's enforcement mechanism by creating a credible threat of criminal prosecution – spending time behind bars.

It's worth noting that the TRACED Act only targets those unwanted and illegal robocalls, like being offered a free trip to the Bahamas in exchange for a Social Security number and credit card information. It protects legitimate entities that use technology to contact consumers, like a bank flagging a potentially fraudulent transaction or a health care provider reminding a patient about an upcoming medical appointment.

My bill was approved by the Senate earlier this year with overwhelming support. Just before Congress adjourned in 2019, the Senate approved a slightly modified version by a simple voice vote, sending it to the president for his signature. On December 30, 2019, after years of work, the TRACED Act became the law of the land.

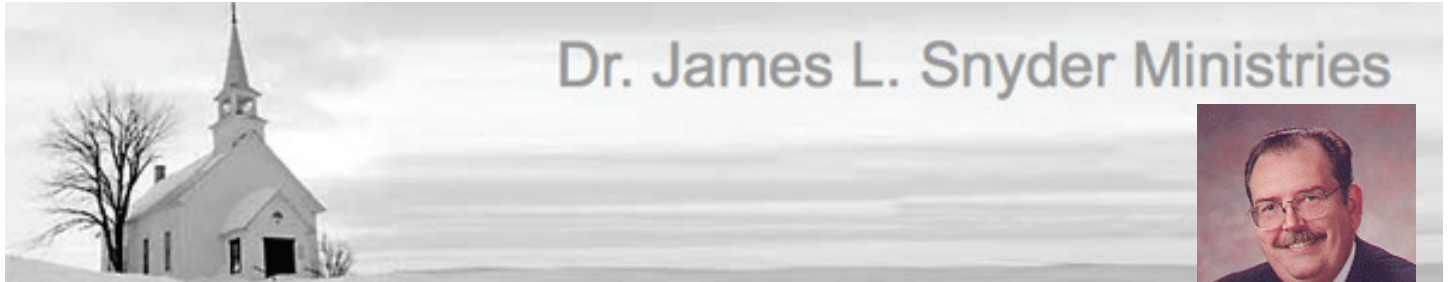
This effort, which I led with Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) was as unique as it was important. In today's

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political environment, it's not every day that you see a conservative Republican teaming up with a liberal Democrat on a bill that was nearly unanimously supported in a divided Congress. That's why the Washington Post said the TRACED Act is "what good, old-fashioned legislating looks like." That's a badge of honor, in my opinion.

While this new law won't immediately stop every single illegal robocall, it does mark the first major attempt to end this scourge in more than a decade, and it will lay important groundwork in the fight toward giving consumers greater peace of mind when their phone rings in 2020 and beyond.



## In praise of crazy

I made a mistake the other night of complaining out loud. It is one thing to complain under your breath so that nobody hears you or knows what you are complaining about. But when you complain out loud, then you run the chance of somebody hearing you.

The somebody I was most concerned about was the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Some things are meant to be kept to yourself and for obvious reasons.

For some reason, who knows what it was, I let my guard down and vocalized my complaining. I must confess that it rather caught me off guard.

"What are you complaining about," my wife said, directing the question to me.

At first, I did not know what she was talking about because I did not realize that I was vocalizing my complaints.

All I could say at the time was, "Did I say that out loud?"

My wife has a delicate way of backing me in a corner where I have to say what is on my mind. Fortunately, I do not have much of a mind for anything to get on. Unfortunately, my tongue is not attached to anything, and so it is loosey-goosey.

What I was complaining about were all the crazy people, particularly on television. Just when you think you have seen the craziest thing, something or someone else takes the lead in the race to crazyville.

Since my wife asked me, I let go on a very eloquent rant against crazy. At this point, I forget the exact crazy that set me off. But it does not matter. If it were not one thing, it would be another thing. I have tried throughout my life to be an equal crazy complainer. If you are crazy, you can be sure I am going to complain about you.

"You, in particular," my wife was directing this toward me, "ought to be quite thankful about all the crazy people in the world."

That set me off on another rant. I am not thankful for the crazy people in this world. The less crazy people, the better I am going to like it. And I made the mistake of telling her exactly what I thought about that. We do not need more crazy people, I argued. Someone in Congress ought to pass a law against crazy.

While I said that, it occurred to me that most of the crazy people are in Congress.

I do not want more crazy people in this world. Enough is enough already, move on.

"Really," my wife argued, "you ought to be happy about all the crazy people in the world."

At this point, I was tempted to direct my complaining toward her. But you know what that would mean, and so do I.

I finally broke down and asked her what in the world she was talking about.



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One thing I have learned throughout the years of marital bliss is, if you ask your wife to tell you something, she will do it. But I was desperate and needed a little bit of clarification.

She looked at me, paused as if she was collecting her thoughts, then said, "You should be thankful there are so many crazy people out in the world. The more crazy people there are, the more you are going to fit in. If for some reason, we could eliminate all the crazy people in the world, you would be a very lonely person."

She continued her explanation by saying, "Every crazy person takes the focus away from you. If there were not enough crazy people out in the world, people would focus on you, complaining about how crazy you are."

You do not have to hit me over the head with a hammer. That is the thing about my wife. When she is right, she is right.

At least it gave me a new perspective on the world around me. Also, a new appreciation for crazy. I began to see her point of view, as humbling as it was, and realize that crazy has a place.

As I further thought about this, I began to realize everybody is crazy only in different areas of their life. Some people's crazy is more noticeable than others are, but everybody has that crazy gene. I guess that is what makes us human.

After some deep reflection on the subject, I have come to the point where I want to praise crazy. I never thought of it along this line, but everybody has the right to change his or her mind about anything. Personally, I would like to change my mind for one that really works. When I find one that's exactly what I'm going to do.

One man's crazy is another man's delight. What is crazy to one person may be something rather important and enjoyable to another. After all, who am I to say what is crazy and what is not crazy. It is important to find someone else with something that you can truly appreciate.

I thought about that and what Solomon said, "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones" (Proverbs 3:7-8).

Instead of spending so much time complaining about other people, I need to exercise the fine art of appreciation and learn how to praise people on their terms.



## **SERENITY DENNARD DISAPPEARANCE: One year later, girl's fate unknown despite extensive search and investigation**

**By: Bart Pfankuch**

Despite a search by more than 1,200 people covering 4,500 miles of woodlands, and an investigation tracking down more than 220 leads and involving 465 interviews, Serenity Dennard remains missing and her fate remains a mystery.

Serenity was 9 on Feb. 3, 2019, when she ran away on a cold Sunday morning from the Black Hills Children's Home, a residential youth treatment facility located near Rockerville in Pennington County, amid some of the most rugged and remote terrain in all of South Dakota.

Though witnesses saw her run off, and a search began almost immediately, Serenity has never been seen again and no evidence of her death has been discovered.

Over the past year, the Pennington County Sheriff's Office has led an aggressive, two-pronged attempt to find Serenity — an investigative track that has sought to rule out foul play and search nationwide for Serenity; and the search track that has engaged 1,200 trained personnel from more than 65 agencies using scent and cadaver dogs, aircraft and thermal devices to look for Serenity's body or any evidence.

Pennington County authorities have not ruled anything out, but their working theory is that Serenity ran into the woods, got lost and froze to death or died of hypothermia.

Yet until Serenity or any evidence is found, her disappearance will remain a mystery that has captivated, saddened and in some cases angered people in South Dakota and beyond.

As the one-year anniversary of Serenity's disappearance approaches, South Dakota News Watch interviewed several people close to Serenity or her case. The reporting has led to several discoveries, including:

— Serenity was known to run away frequently from her family home in Sturgis. Runaway prevention was part of the reason for her placement and part of her treatment plan at Black Hills Children's Home. Serenity tried to run away one week before her final escape and was placed on a protocol of "arm's length only" monitoring. But for reasons unexplained, the strict runaway-prevention effort was ended a day or two before her fateful Feb. 3 escape, according to Serenity's adoptive father and his wife, who are her primary caretakers.

— The children's home, run by the non-profit Children's Home Society, was cited by state and federal regulators after Serenity's disappearance for waiting 80 minutes to call 911, for having radios that were



**Serenity Dennard is shown in one of her last known photos. A year after she ran away, Serenity's disappearance remains a heartbreaking mystery for many people in western South Dakota and beyond. Anyone with information about Serenity is asked to call 605-394-6115.** Photo: Courtesy Pennington

County Sheriff's Office

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on different channels and for lacking planning and training in runaway prevention.

— Two people with direct physical oversight of Serenity at the time of her disappearance were fired after she ran away, according to Children's Home Society Executive Director Michelle Lavallee. But the on-call supervisor who advised employees on the scene to search longer on their own before calling 911 remains employed, as does the director of the home, who refused an interview request from News Watch.

— Although the home society has engaged new protocols to heighten runaway prevention and training for employees at the Black Hills home, those same methods have not been fully implemented at the society's residential treatment home in Sioux Falls. Also, as of late January 2020, security cameras and doors with security alarms were planned but not yet installed at the Black Hills home, nearly a year after Serenity's disappearance. Similar security mechanisms are proposed for the Sioux Falls home but won't be purchased or installed until the society receives a funding grant it has applied for, Lavallee said.

— Serenity's adoptive parents, now divorced, and their loved ones have had their sorrow and stress worsened by criticisms and outrageous false statements on social media and a website created about the case. Serenity's adoptive mother has been accused of involvement in her disappearance, even though she was at work when the girl went missing and investigators do not suspect any of the parents. Serenity's adoptive father has had strangers take pictures of his other children playing outside his home and has been accused of giving his daughter a phone in a plot to help her escape.

— Sheriff's officials say Serenity had only a 3-minute to 5-minute head start on the first searchers. Two eyewitnesses who saw Serenity run away reported it and then searched for her. The eyewitnesses lost sight of Serenity for only 3 to 5 minutes before trying to follow Serenity's path.

Deputy Jamin Hartland, the Pennington County Sheriff's Office lead detective on the case, said the investigation is the most extensive in Pennington County history, and so far has shown no evidence of an abduction or other form of foul play.

"In this investigation, as in any investigation, obviously we can't rule out any possibility until we know exactly what happened to Serenity," Hartland told News Watch. "We just have no solid evidence thus far to suggest that this was an abduction or anything other than a girl who ran away from a facility and has yet to be found."

Hartland and Sheriff Kevin Thom say it is highly unlikely that Serenity was taken by a stranger or someone driving by.

They base that view on the short period of time Serenity was out of sight; the fact that she was walking in snow boots on a rural stretch of a road trafficked almost exclusively by locals during winter; and the fact that it was late morning on a chilly Super Bowl Sunday.

"I can't even begin to calculate the odds that someone who would be willing to violently abduct a child happened by on a rural western South Dakota road within the few minutes they had to do that and successfully abducted her," Hartland said.

Cadaver dogs searching for her have picked up scents, but it is unknown if the odors emanated from



**Gail Schmidt is the chief of the Rockerville Volunteer Fire Department and has been one of the most prolific searchers in the hunt to find Serenity Dennard. In the video, Schmidt discusses the challenges of searching in the area around the Black Hills Children's Home and shares her unique motivation for searching so hard.** Photo/Video: Bart Pfankuch,

South Dakota News Watch



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Serenity.

Serenity's adoptive father, Chad Dennard, said Serenity had become adept at planning and executing runaway attempts, but also seemed to enjoy watching people search for her. Dennard said his theory is that the girl stayed just ahead of searchers and got lost before succumbing to the freezing temperatures and snowfall that arrived the evening of her running away.

"As far as what I think happened, it changes every day," Dennard said. "But I think she's out there; I truly don't think somebody picked her up. I think she liked to run and she wouldn't run very far, but she liked to see people looking for her. I think she watched people look for her and I think she went too far and got lost. That's just Serenity, and she had done that before."

Dennard, his wife, KaSandra Dennard, and Serenity's adoptive mother, Darcie Gentry, all expressed shock that such an intense, sustained and expansive search has not found Serenity. The anguish of not knowing what happened or where she is has led them all to hope that someday, somehow, Serenity might return to them.

"We'd take any news at this point," Gentry said in an interview at her home east of Rapid City. "Her bedroom is all set up for her, waiting for her to come home. Sometimes I just go in there and I cry. I lay down, I hold her unicorn, and I cuddle up in the blankets. It just completely rips your heart out."

After being given up by her birth parents who were unstable, and moving through more than a dozen foster homes, Serenity had been diagnosed with reactive detachment disorder, a condition in which children do not feel secure with familial relationships and can act out as a result. She was also diagnosed with disruptive mood dysregulation disorder, a condition marked by mood swings.

Chad and KaSandra Dennard said Serenity was referred to the children's home after a period of worsening behaviors that included running away multiple times, instability in relationships with other children and the potential for self-harm. She began residing at the home in July 2018 for what is typically a 14-month admission.

## A quick plan, then a quick escape

According to Deputy Hartland, Serenity was playing in the gymnasium at the children's home just before 11 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019, with two staff members and six children present.

Serenity and another girl made an impromptu plan that the girl would distract staff members so Serenity could run away, Hartland said. When the girl ran out of the gym and back into the main building, one staff member chased her while the other stayed and supervised the remaining children.

Serenity used the distraction to open the outside door and run away (for security and safe-exit purposes, doors in the children's home are locked from the outside but not from the inside.) No one from the children's home gave immediate chase.

Serenity, dressed in jeans, a long-sleeve shirt and snow boots, ran north across a campus path and into the main parking lot of the complex.

Authorities know this because after Serenity left the gym, a woman and her granddaughter saw her, Hartland said. The pair had dropped off a child at the northernmost building on the campus and were



**This portrait of Serenity Dennard hangs with other precious family photos in the living room at the home of Chad and KaSandra Dennard in Sturgis. The Dennards are heartbroken over the loss of their daughter and disappointed that she was able to run away from the Black Hills Children's Home.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

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driving on a campus path when they saw Serenity run through the parking lot and stumble on the cattle guard just short of the exit onto Rockerville Road.

While watching, the grandmother reversed the vehicle back to the main building, got out and rang a doorbell to alert a cook inside that a child was running away. The cook was equipped with a radio to alert other employees, but the radio was on a different channel, which slowed the initial staff response, Lavalée said.

The granddaughter remained in the car and watched as Serenity, now walking, headed north on Rockerville Road.

After walking about 50 yards north of the complex entrance, Serenity went out of sight of the granddaughter, whose view was blocked by trees and topography.

When the grandmother returned to the car, the pair drove out of the children's home complex and followed Serenity's path north on Rockerville Road.

They drove a while and returned to the home, then retraced their route more than once, but they never saw Serenity again, and they never saw anyone or any vehicles, Hartland said.

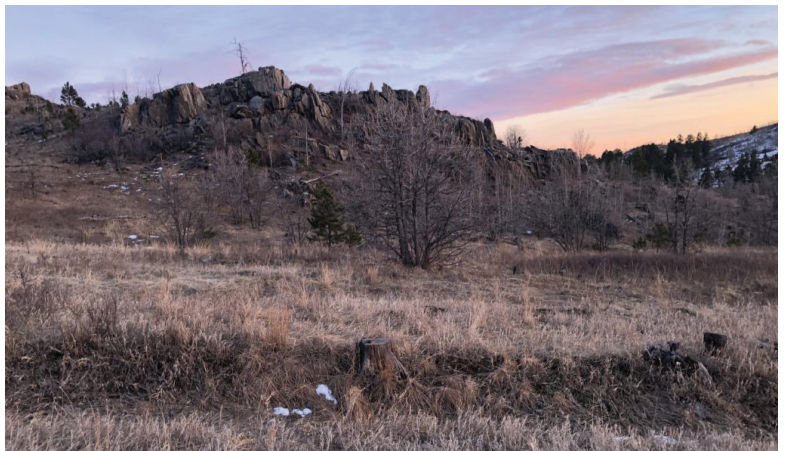
The witnesses said about three to five minutes elapsed from when they watched Serenity running to when they first notified the cook. Then, another three or four minutes went by from when they lost sight of Serenity to when they drove onto Rockerville Road to begin searching.

At the time of the runaway, 15 staff and 37 children were at the facility, Lavalée said. Four staff members began searching for Serenity as soon as they were notified; one more joined in later. Lavalée said that the on-call supervisor

was contacted at home and advised staff to continue searching for 15 minutes more before calling 911.

When that supervisor arrived on scene about 80 minutes later, 911 still had not been called, so the supervisor then called authorities to report the runaway, Lavalée said.

The emergency call kicked off an aggressive search and investigative effort that evening, including the arrival of a portable command post, searchers with dogs and eventually the arrival of detectives, including Hartland, who was notified of the case around 6 p.m.



**These two photos show the type of terrain where authorities believe Serenity Dennard may have gotten lost after running away from the Black Hills Children's Home on Feb. 3, 2019. The top photo is of a wooded area very close to the spot of the last known sighting of Serenity; the lower image is of a landscape off Rockerville Road about a mile north of the children's home.** Photos: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News

Watch

## The hunt begins, and drags on

The first night, Hartland and other deputies went door-to-door to all the homes in the area, about 40 in all, trying to see if anyone had seen Serenity, but also getting a feel for any unusual responses, Hartland said.



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The department also gave immediate national attention to the case by reporting Serenity as a missing person with the National Crime Information Center, and the next day issuing a national Missing and Endangered Person alert, which is one step above the NCIC notification, Sheriff Thom said.

In the days after, detectives interviewed children's home employees and residents who were at the home the day Serenity left. Eventually, Hartland said, his team interviewed all employees or former employees of the home who had had any contact with Serenity, about 100 people in all.

Investigators also interviewed both sets of Serenity's adoptive parents and her birth parents, and none are considered suspects, Hartland said.

"We've been criticized for not investigating the children's home staff and the families, when in fact those are two of the first things we did," Hartland said.

Another key component of the investigation, he said, was determining whether Serenity could have contacted anyone outside the home before her escape, either by phone or computer. Investigators found nothing to indicate she had done either, Hartland said.

Through the year, Hartland and investigators from a wide range of agencies have followed up on 224 leads from across the country, mostly reported sightings of Serenity. With the help of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and numerous other local agencies across 36 states and Canada, every lead has been checked without positive results, he said. The department has also looked into claims of sightings in Pakistan and Nigeria that turned out to be scam attempts.

## Searching, searching, and not finding

While most of the investigative effort has been done quietly, the numerous and extensive searches for Serenity have been well publicized.

In all, more than 1,200 people from nearly 70 agencies, including more than 100 dog teams, have logged more than 4,500 miles of walking, Thom said. The agency often alerts local media that a search has taken place or is about to, and pictures and videos are often posted on the department's Facebook page and Twitter account.

To monitor the search and try to rule some areas out, Thom maintains a tabletop-size map of the area with lines demarcating where GPS devices show people and dogs have searched so far. Almost the entire region is nearly covered with blue and red lines where searching has taken place.

Thom pointed out that his agency has conducted numerous searches for lost people in the Black Hills during his nine years in office, and mostly with success. But he also cautioned that searching in the Hills is never an easy task.

The weather turned bad the day Serenity ran away, with temperatures below freezing and snow that fell and stayed for several weeks, hampering the search and reducing the chances Serenity could survive outside for more than a few hours, Thom said.



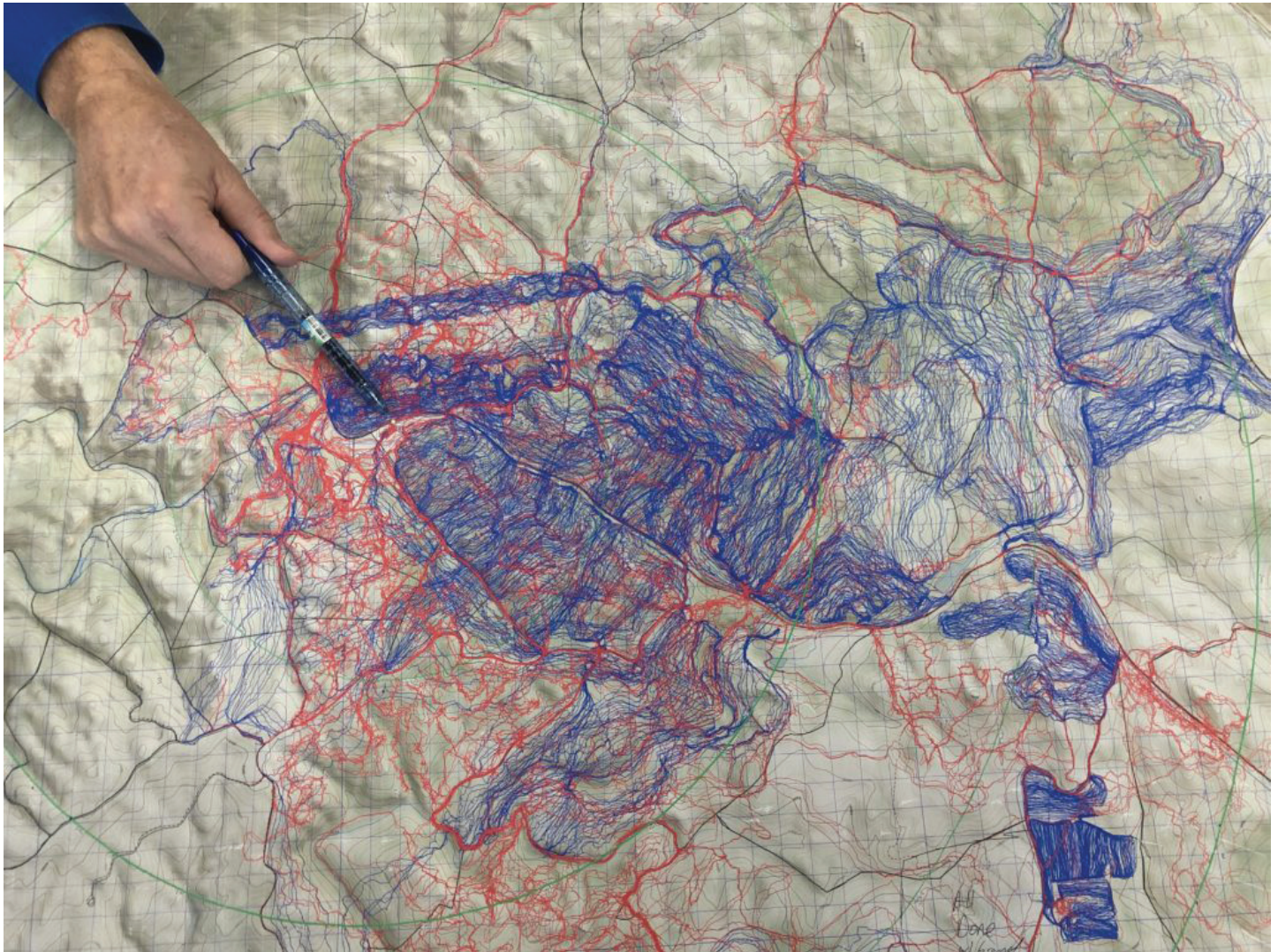
**The Black Hills Children's Home is located in a remote area of Pennington County about 20 miles southwest of Rapid City. This photo shows the path witnesses say Serenity ran down prior to entering the parking lot and venturing out to Rockerville Road, where she was last seen heading north.** Photo:

Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch



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**This map shows lines where people and dogs have searched for Serenity Dennard in the area around the Black Hills Children's Home south of Rockerville. The lines, recorded by GPS devices, are blue in places where people have searched and red in spots where people and dogs have searched together. The hand of Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom is pointing to where Serenity Dennard was last seen, about 50 yards north of the entrance to the children's home.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

"In terms of Serenity specifically, she's very small, she's 4-foot-9, roughly 90-some pounds, so if she's in the woods and got lost, at the point you're becoming hypothermic, there's the potential that you find a spot to curl up to get warm, under a rock ledge or next to a log," Thom said. "Experienced searchers will tell you that it's not uncommon to walk past people multiple times in an area once they get hidden and you can be a few feet from someone and walk right past them."

Thom said cadaver dogs have alerted to scent, but it is unknown if the scent originated with Serenity, and so far nothing has been found.

"We've got two tracks; the investigative track and the search track, and we've never stopped doing either of them," Thom said. "I think there is a point we stop, but we haven't reached that point yet."

The sheriff's office consulted a pediatrician who said that given Serenity's age, size and the weather, she possibly could have walked three to four miles from the children's home, presenting searchers with a



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giant area to search.

Thom noted that his department has an ongoing case in which a man remains lost in the Black Hills. Experienced elk hunter Larry Genzlinger, 66, of Howard, was hunting near Deerfield Lake in the Black Hills on Oct. 1 and has not been found despite an aggressive search.

Gail Schmidt, chief of the Rockerville Volunteer Fire Department, has helped lead numerous searches for Serenity and is believed to have spent more time in the woods looking than anyone else. As of early January 2020, she had personally logged 63 days of searching and had covered an estimated 375 miles on foot.

Schmidt said searching is difficult in the region around the children's home owing to the sheer variety of terrain and topography — from open forest roads and trails to granite outcroppings to caves to draws and drainages to ponds and lakes. The region is also home to numerous downed, blackened trees that remain piled up from the Battle Creek Fire that scarred 13,000 acres around the children's home in 2002.

"I've found myself seeing something black and square and thinking, 'Could that be her boot?'" Schmidt said.

The wide variety of low and high points not only creates myriad places where a pre-teen girl could hide or seek shelter, but also creates challenges for dogs and handlers trying to track a scent, Schmidt said. Wind, temperature and humidity all affect how scent travels, making it tricky to determine the source of smells that have been occasionally picked up and noted by cadaver dogs.

Schmidt, like others, is bothered and surprised that such an extensive search has not turned up Serenity or even any of her clothing.

"My explanation for how we could have covered so many miles and haven't found her is that we just haven't gotten to her yet," she said. "We're in the process of eliminating areas and following any scents ... but there's lots of rock outcrops, so if she tucked herself into a rock or a cave somewhere, we just try to check those areas as best we can."

Schmidt said she has been amazed and touched by the incredible efforts of local first-responders, community members and outside experts who have participated in or supported the search for Serenity. Thom said the value of the volunteer hours devoted to the case, added to the actual costs incurred by his department, are likely over \$500,000.



**Pennington County Sheriff's detective Jamin Hartland is the lead investigator into the disappearance of Serenity Dennard, and he keeps the red case file at the ready in case new information arises. In the video, Hartland shares his latest views on the case and talks of how the as yet unsuccessful yearlong effort has affected him.** Photo/video:

Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

## Safety improved at Black Hills Children's Home

Lavallee became executive director of the Children's Home Society in late September, replacing longtime director Bill Colson, who retired in 2019 after a decade leading the agency. Lavallee is a former candidate for lieutenant governor who has served as an executive at Raven Industries, Avera Hospital and the University of South Dakota.

The Children's Home Society has two residential treatment centers; one with 60 children in Sioux Falls and the Rockerville facility, which houses 36 inpatient children. The society receives about \$8 million a year in Medicaid funding; it costs about \$275 per day to house a child, depending on the treatment plan, Lavallee said.

Lavallee said improving safety for children at the Children's Home Society residential facilities became

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a top priority after Serenity's disappearance and a scathing review of policies by the state Department of Social Services and the federal Center for Medicaid Services in April.

The society has complied with all the directives put forward by the state and federal regulators, Lavallee said.

Several policies have been updated, including that 911 will be called anytime a staff member loses "line of sight" on a child and that all radios are now programmed to the same channel.

A new phone system has a button to alert employees inside and outside the home that an emergency exists, and a designated supervisor must be on campus at all times and would serve as the search coordinator in an emergency.

Beyond that, runaway drills are conducted monthly in Rockerville and more frequently than before in Sioux Falls. New employees undergo runaway training at the time of hiring, Lavallee said.

The society plans to install cameras outside the Rockerville facility in early February, and at that time new doors will be installed that can be opened only from the inside with a key card or else an alarm will sound and a 15-second delay will engage to prevent unauthorized departures.

"You won't see this happen again today," Lavallee said, adding that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security visited the children's home in October to make further suggestions on security and will make a similar visit to the Sioux Falls home in March.

Lavallee said the state DSS recommended the termination of the two children's home employees; she would not discuss other personnel decisions or anything related to Serenity's treatment, including if or why the "arm's length" monitoring ended.

Lavallee said she and other society employees are deeply saddened over Serenity's disappearance and that, "Serenity remains in our hearts every day."

KaSandra Dennard said that given Serenity's history of running away — and her high intelligence and ability to manipulate others — she doesn't directly blame the children's home for losing Serenity.

But she does acknowledge she is disappointed that a girl with Serenity's behavior pattern and treatment plan was not kept safe by professionals she and her husband entrusted with the care of their daughter.

"We were literally, 24/7, keeping an eye on her to make sure nothing happened to her or to any other kids, and that she didn't leave," KaSandra said, noting the family has a security system to alert them if Serenity left the home at night or unattended. "They're trained for that and they have people there all the time for that."

KaSandra and Chad said they don't understand why Serenity was taken off the "arm's length" monitoring policy so soon after her previous runaway attempt.

"Her safety was the number-one reason we went the route we did" in placing Serenity at the home, KaSandra said. "Here's a child who just tried running, and they took her off that plan? I just don't know..."

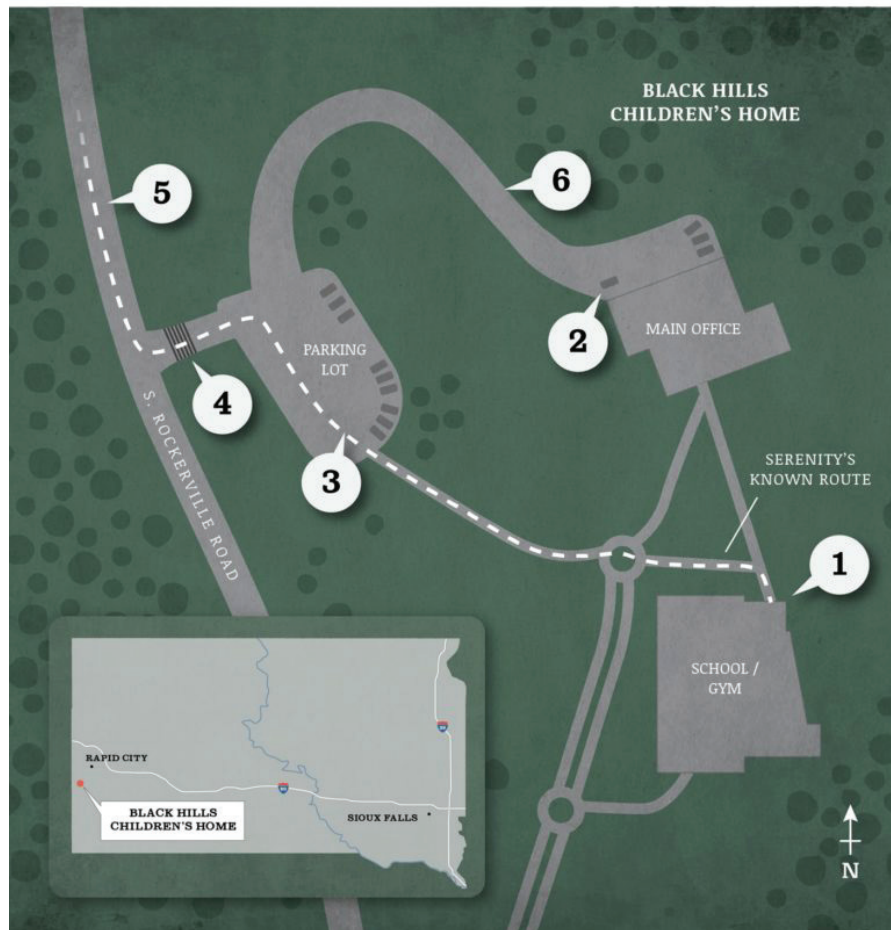


**Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom reviews the map that indicates areas around the Black Hills Children's Home that have been searched in the effort to find Serenity Dennard or evidence of her in the woods. In the video, Thom discusses the extent of his department's search, challenges that have arisen, and what it's like to be looking for a missing child.** Photo/

video: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch



## Serenity's Last Known Movements



1. Serenity Dennard, 9, exits the gym building at the children's home unattended around 11 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019 after staff members inside are distracted by another child. Dressed in a long-sleeved shirt, jeans and snow boots, Serenity is believed to head north on paths within the complex.

2. At the same time, a woman and her granddaughter drop off a child at the northern entrance to the main office.

3. As they begin to drive away, they both see Serenity running alone across the parking lot, and they recognize that she is a resident who is likely running away.

4. They continue to watch as Serenity stumbles and falls at the cattle guard just short of Rockerville Road. The grandmother reverses the car back to the main building, gets out and rings a doorbell to alert staff inside of the runaway.

5. The granddaughter stays in the car, watching Serenity. Now at a walking pace, Serenity heads north on Rockerville Road. At a spot about 50 yards north of the main entrance, the granddaughter loses sight of Serenity due to trees and topography. It was the last known sighting of Serenity, who has been missing ever since.

6. Within three to four minutes of losing sight of Serenity, the grandmother and granddaughter drive down the children's home path and turn onto Rockerville Road to look for Serenity. Heading north, they drive up the road and return to the children's home more than once and do not see Serenity or any other vehicles or people. Meanwhile, children's home staff begin to search on foot and in vehicles and do not see Serenity. After 1 hour and 20 minutes since being alerted to the runaway, children's home staff place the first call to 911, kicking off a year-long search and investigation that have turned up nothing.

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## Sioux Falls Christian stops Groton Area in NEC-DAK12 Clash

Groton Area faced a tough Sioux Falls Christian team in the finale of the NEC-DAK12 Clash held Saturday in Madison. The Chargers rallied in the fourth quarter to pull away from the Tigers, 62-47.

Sioux Falls Christian jumped out to a 16-6 lead at the end of the first quarter. Brodyn DeHoet had a great and a bad second quarter, scoring 13 points as the Tigers took the lead, 22-20. DeHoet collected three fouls in the second quarter as well. After that, Sioux Falls Christian went on a 13-point run to take a 33-22 lead. The Chargers led at half time, 29-22, and at the end of the third quarter, 47-36. Groton Area closed to within nine early in the fourth quarter, 49-40. The Chargers would quickly explode with fast breaks layups and would go on for the win.

DeHoet was awarded the player of the game away with 28 points and 12 rebounds and two blocks. Kaden Kurtz had 10 points while Jonathan Doeden had four, Jayden Zak three and Cade Guthmiller two.

Groton Area made seven of 20 three-pointers for 35 percent, 10 of 32 two-pointers for 31 percent and was six of 10 in free throws for 60 percent off of the Chargers' 13 team fouls. Groton Area had seven steals, seven blocks, 23 rebounds, 10 assists and 11 turnovers.

Coach Brian Dolan said he was very happy that DeHoet won the Player of the Game award. He also mentioned that Doeden also had a great game. Doeden's main assignment was to contain Xavier Van Beek. Van Beek only had seven points, just two in the second half.

Leading the way for the Chargers were Noah Van Donkersgoed with 19 points followed by Tyler Prins with 17, Zach Witte with 13, Carson Van Beek had four and Brooks Nelson two.

Sioux Falls Christian was limited to just one three-pointer in the game while the Tigers made seven. In the Chargers win over Madison, they had nine three-pointers. Sioux Falls Christian was 11 of 11 from the free throw line off of Groton Area's 15 team fouls and they had 10 turnovers. Sioux Falls Christian made 25 of 44 field goals for 57 percent and Groton Area made 17 of 51 for 33 percent.

The Tigers are 9-2 on the season and will host Langford Area on Tuesday as part of a double header. Sioux Falls Christian is 11-2.

And a side note, there was an hour long power outage in the afternoon so Groton's game, which was suppose to start at 6:30 p.m., did not start until 8:15 p.m.



**Brodyn DeHoet was selected as the Player of the Game.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

- Paul Kosel

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## Seven wrestlers place at Groton Invite

Seven Groton Area grapplers placed at the Groton Invitational Wrestling Tournament held Saturday.

Christian Ehremsnn placed first 106 pounds, Dragr Monson placed first at 113 pounds, Brevin Flihs placed third at 120 pounds, Cole Bisbee placed second at 145 pounds, Lane Krueger placed second at 182 pounds, Caleb Furney placed fourth at 195 pounds, Grady O'Neill placed third at 285 pounds.

### **106 B: Porter Johnson (10-6) scored 4.0 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 10-6 won by fall over Aidan Cass (Watertown JV) 0-2 (Fall 3:04)

Semifinal - Leo Stroup (Watertown JV) 2-1 won by fall over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 10-6 (Fall 1:19)

Cons. Semi - Isaac Dean (Milbank JV) 3-7 won by fall over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 10-6 (Fall 2:38)

### **106: Christian Ehresmann (21-11) placed 1st and scored 22.5 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 21-11 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 21-11 won by tech fall over Charlie Dulany (Warner/Northwestern) 7-11 (TF-1.5 4:44 (17-2))

Semifinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 21-11 won by decision over Joshua Kannegieter (Clark/Willow Lake JV) 17-15 (Dec 7-0)

1st Place Match - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 21-11 won by major decision over Jacob Johnson (Milbank JV) 12-16 (MD 14-5)

### **113: Jacob Craig (6-7)**

Champ. Round 1 - Jacob Craig (Groton Area) 6-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Brayden Christensen (Milbank JV) 14-12 won by fall over Jacob Craig (Groton Area) 6-7 (Fall 1:50)

Cons. Round 2 - Jacob Craig (Groton Area) 6-7 won by fall over Nicholus Giese (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 0-2 (Fall 2:06)

Cons. Round 3 - Gage Skjonsberg (Viborg/Hurley) 3-3 won by fall over Jacob Craig (Groton Area) 6-7 (Fall 2:22)

### **113: Dragr Monson (26-6) placed 1st and scored 23.5 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 26-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 26-6 won by tech fall over Parker Gill (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 2-18 (TF-1.5 2:26 (16-1))

Semifinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 26-6 won by fall over Mason Krause (Watertown JV) 5-6 (Fall 0:18)

1st Place Match - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 26-6 won by decision over Brayden Christensen (Milbank JV) 14-12 (Dec 9-4)

### **120: Brevin Flihs (15-8) placed 3rd and scored 16.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 15-8 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 15-8 won by fall over Sergio Nunez (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey-Wessington) 2-9 (Fall 3:04)

Semifinal - Evan Dorsett (Milbank JV) 6-2 won by decision over Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 15-8 (Dec 6-5)

Cons. Semi - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 15-8 won by fall over Tate Schlueter (Milbank JV) 2-6 (Fall 4:55)

3rd Place Match - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 15-8 won by decision over Derek Hanson (Watertown JV) 3-2 (Dec 9-6)

### **120: Aiden Heathcote (9-7)**

Champ. Round 1 - Aiden Heathcote (Groton Area) 9-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Derek Hanson (Watertown JV) 3-2 won by fall over Aiden Heathcote (Groton Area) 9-7 (Fall 1:56)

Cons. Round 2 - Aiden Heathcote (Groton Area) 9-7 won by decision over Gavin Witt (Webster Area JV) 2-9 (Dec 4-0)

Cons. Round 3 - Tate Schlueter (Milbank JV) 2-6 won by fall over Aiden Heathcote (Groton Area) 9-7 (Fall 0:18)



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## **126: Korbin Kucker (8-7) scored 2.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 8-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Jayden Johnson (Milbank JV) 7-4 won by fall over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 8-7 (Fall 0:53)

Cons. Round 2 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 8-7 won by major decision over Paul VanDover (Milbank JV) 1-4 (MD 13-0)

Cons. Round 3 - Troy Randall Jr (Watertown JV) 6-8 won by fall over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 8-7 (Fall 0:25)

## **145: Cole Bisbee (11-7) placed 2nd and scored 18.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 11-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 11-7 won by fall over Tyler Frick (Canton JV) 1-2 (Fall 2:30)

Semifinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 11-7 won by decision over Darrel Yost (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 2-17 (Dec 5-2)

1st Place Match - Braydin Lebores (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey-Wessington) 9-5 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 11-7 (Fall 3:07)

## **182: Lane Krueger (17-13) placed 2nd and scored 16.0 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 17-13 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 17-13 won by fall over Matthew McCloud (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 2-12 (Fall 0:28)

1st Place Match - Tanner Meyers (Canton JV) 4-0 won by tech fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 17-13 (TF-1.5 4:29 (18-1))

## **195: Caleb Furney (3-4) placed 4th and scored 4.0 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 3-4 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Elijah Isais (Canton JV) 11-12 won by fall over Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 3-4 (Fall 2:50)

Cons. Semi - Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 3-4 received a bye () (Bye)

3rd Place Match - Logan Meyer (Milbank JV) 3-12 won by fall over Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 3-4 (Fall 3:24)

## **285: Grady O`Neill (20-13) placed 3rd and scored 16.0 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 20-13 won by fall over Will Peterson (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 1-4 (Fall 1:54)

Semifinal - Avery Nichols (Clark/Willow Lake JV) 14-15 won by fall over Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 20-13 (Fall 5:16)

Cons. Semi - Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 20-13 won by fall over Landon Novy (Milbank JV) 3-4 (Fall 1:56)

3rd Place Match - Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 20-13 won by fall over Ben Lasley (Canton JV) 8-9 (Fall 1:57)

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## January 2020 Weather Summary

On a whole, January 2020 finished near normal as an average temperature-wise across the area. However, there were swings, namely, above average temperatures were in place generally in the beginning and ending thirds of the month while below average temperatures prevailed in-between. The coldest day of the month for most, January 16th, featured lows of -10 to -30 F. While warmer air moved in to end the month, it came at the cost of widespread persistent cloud cover, as well as consecutive mornings of dense freezing fog and/or freezing drizzle which resulted in slick roads and vehicle accidents.

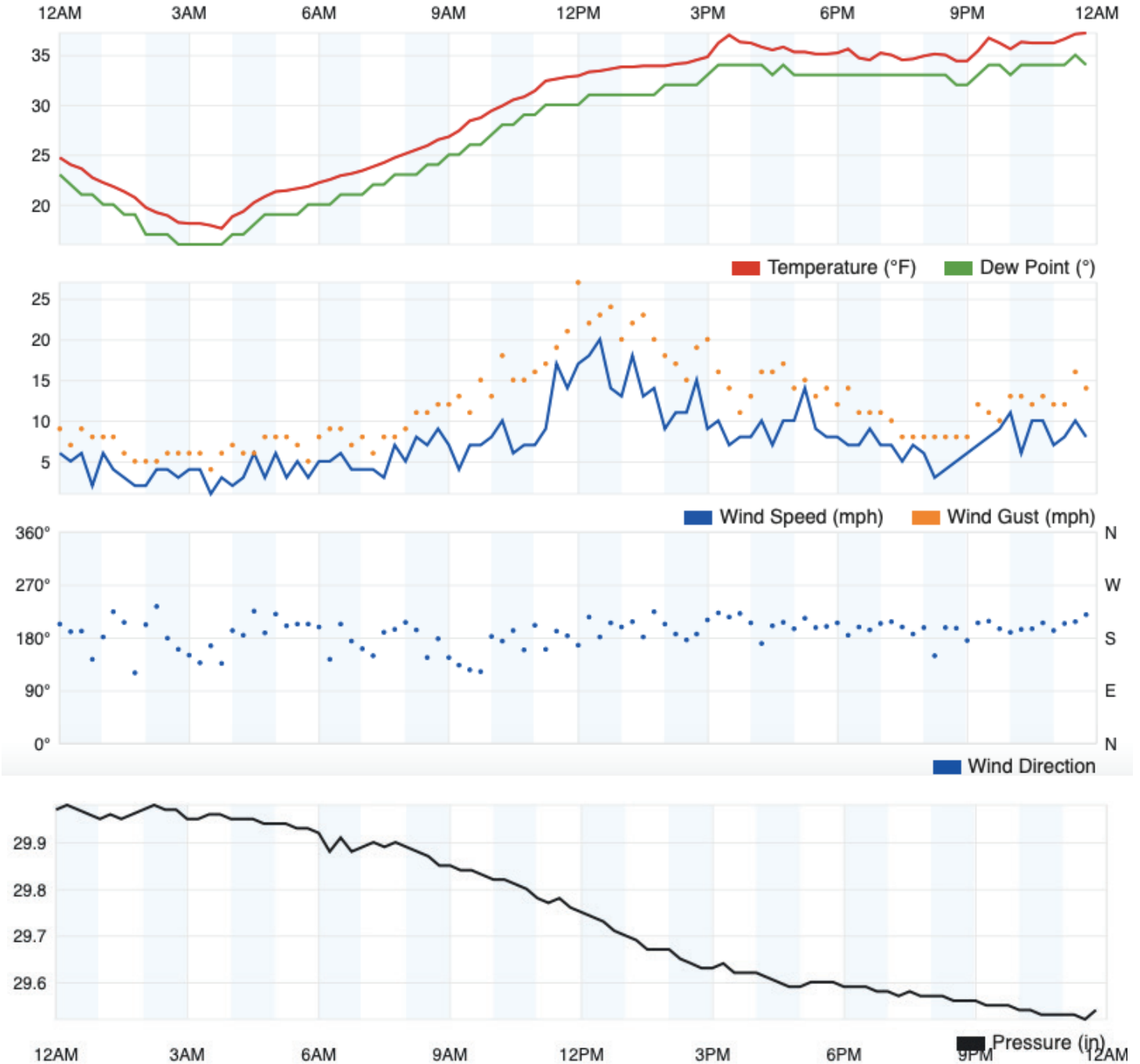
Precipitation and snowfall for the month finished slightly above average across eastern and portions of north central South Dakota, but much of the rest of the area finished near or slightly below average. Watertown tied a daily record for snow on January 3rd, of 3.5" (2009). While no widespread heavy snow event took place across the area, enough fell on the 17th to combine with strong winds on the 17th and 18th to produce widespread blizzard conditions. Localized blizzard conditions occurred on a couple additional instances across downslope wind-prone areas on the western and eastern slopes of the Coteau this month, thanks in part to a substantial snow pack and cold air. The most notable of these events occurred mostly on the morning of the 21st, when localized wind gusts of 60+ mph were recorded. A stretch of I-29 was even closed for about an hour from Sisseton to Summit due to a jackknifed semi tractor-trailer.

A strong low pressure system tracked from Wyoming across the state of South Dakota on Friday, January 17th and Saturday, January 18th. Ahead of the low, strong southerly winds combined with falling snow to produce widespread blowing snow and even blizzard conditions for some east of the Missouri River. Freezing drizzle and freezing rain were observed across the area at times as well on Friday. By Friday evening, a brief lull in the winds allowed for improvements to the visibility, but blizzard conditions swiftly returned on surging northwest winds from west to east across the state, beginning roughly at the Missouri River around 8 pm (no or too little blowable snow further west). Ground blizzard conditions then continued through much of the day Saturday across northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Very cold air moved in with the northwest winds as well. Impacts included road closures such as I-29 across all of eastern SD from 7pm on the 17th through 3pm 18th (portions of I-90 too) as well as other roads for even longer than that in some cases, power outages, and many vehicles in ditches.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





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## Upcoming Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Today

Tonight

Monday

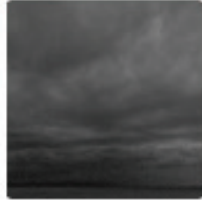
Monday  
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Tuesday



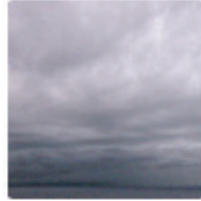
Mostly Sunny  
and Breezy  
then Partly  
Sunny

High: 42 °F ↓↓



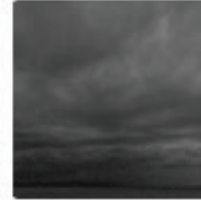
Cloudy

Low: 20 °F



Cloudy

High: 24 °F ↓↓



Cloudy

Low: 6 °F



Partly Sunny

High: 16 °F

**Another Warmer Than Average Winter Day With Some Additional Snowmelt**

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 2/2/2020 3:56 AM Central

Warm winter temperatures starting in the upper 30s to mid-40s won't increase much, if at all, from this morning before dropping throughout the afternoon as colder air works its way into the region. While the thick snowpack across most areas east of the Missouri likely won't see large additional drops in depth, roofs, roads, and parking lots will continue to melt off.

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## Today in Weather History

January 26, 1977: Four days of very strong winds occurred from the 26th through the 29th with a strong low pressure area over western Ontario. Strong northwest winds of 30 to 45 mph with gusts into the 60s caused widespread blowing and drifting snow with most roads closed with many traffic accidents. The winds combined with subzero temperatures to create wind chills of 60 to 80 below zero. Many schools were closed for several days.

January 26, 2014: A strong Alberta Clipper system generated light snow and strong winds across the region resulting in blizzard conditions. On Sunday morning, a band of moderate to heavy snow showers developed over North Dakota and swept down through our region producing cloud to ground lightning and thundersnow at times. Snowfall amounts were generally three inches or less. Wind gusts ranged from 45 to 55 mph at times. Several no travel advisories were issued due to poor visibilities in blizzard conditions with state officials closing a large portion of Interstate-29 from Brookings to the North Dakota border. The constant bombardment from powerful clipper systems from the northwest was responsible for this unusual weather.

1772: Possibly the greatest snowfall ever recorded in Washington started on this day. When the storm began, Thomas Jefferson was returning home from his honeymoon with his new bride, Martha Wayles Skelton. The newlyweds made it to within eight miles of Monticello before having to abandon their carriage in the deep snow. Both finished the ride on horseback in the blinding snow. The newlyweds arrived home late on the night of January 26th. In Jefferson's "Garden Book," he wrote "the deepest snow we have ever seen. In Albermarle it was about 3. F. deep."

1937: The wettest month ever in Cincinnati, Ohio is January 1937 when 13.68 inches fell. Their average January amount is 3.00 inches of precipitation. The overabundance of precipitation over the Ohio River basin caused near record to record flooding in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. On this day, the river gauge reached 80 feet in Cincinnati, the highest level in the city's history. The Ohio River reached 57 feet in Louisville, Kentucky on the 27th, also setting a new record by ten feet. Seventy percent of the city was under water at that time.

1978 - A paralyzing blizzard struck the Midwest. One to three feet of snow fell in Michigan, and 20 to 40 inches was reported across Indiana. Winds reached 70 mph in Michigan, and gusted above 100 mph in Ohio. The high winds produced snow drifts twenty feet high in Michigan and Indiana stranding thousands on the interstate highways. Temperatures in Ohio dropped from the 40s to near zero during the storm. (David Ludlum)

1983 - The California coast was battered by a storm which produced record high tides, thirty-two foot waves, and mudslides, causing millions of dollars damage. The storm then moved east and dumped four feet of snow on Lake Tahoe. (22nd-29th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A winter storm spread heavy snow across the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast States, with 18 inches reported at Vineland NJ, and wind gusts to 65 mph at Chatham MA. Snow cover in Virginia ranged up to thirty inches following this second major storm in just one week. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A snowstorm in the northeastern U.S. produced 19 inches at Austerlitz NY and Stillwater NY. A storm in the Great Lakes Region left 16.5 inches at Marquette MI, for a total of 43 inches in six days. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Snow and high winds created blizzard-like conditions in northwestern Vermont. Winds at Saint Albans gusted to 88 mph. In Alaska, the town of Cold Foot (located north of Fairbanks) reported a morning low of 75 degrees below zero. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A winter storm spread high winds from the northwestern U.S. to Wyoming and Colorado, with heavy snow in some of the high elevations. Stevens Pass WA received 17 inches of snow, half of which fell in four hours. In extreme northwest Wyoming, Togwotee Mountain Lodge received 24 inches of snow. Winds in Colorado gusted to 90 mph at Rollinsville. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 37 °F at 11:46 PM**

**Low Temp: 17 °F at 3:35 AM**

**Wind: 27 mph at 11:58 AM**

**Snow**

**Record High: 60° in 1991**

**Record Low: -39° in 1917**

**Average High: 24°F**

**Average Low: 3°F**

**Average Precip in Feb.: 0.01**

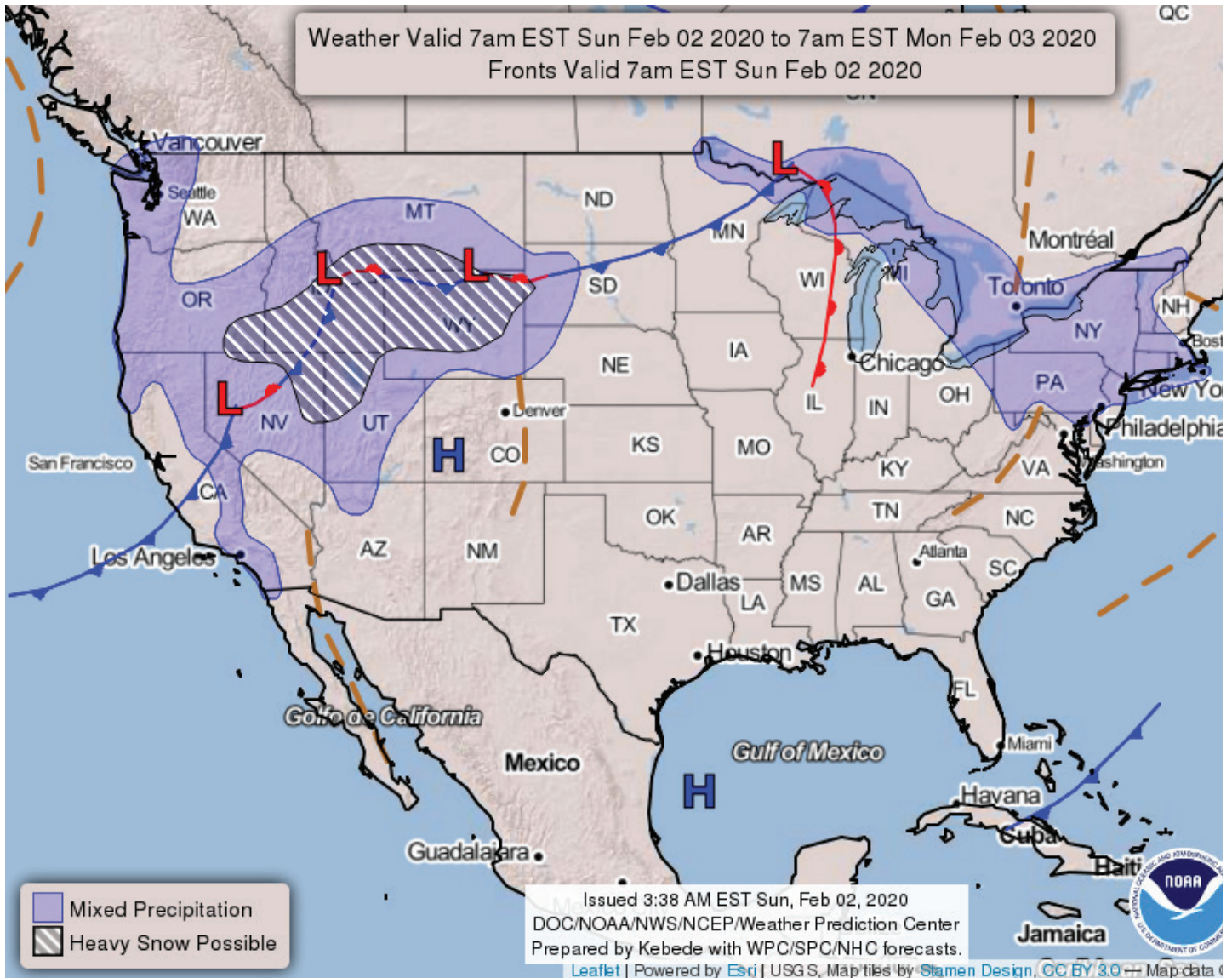
**Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 0.48**

**Precip Year to Date: 0.35**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:41 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:53 a.m.**



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## AGAINST ALL ODDS

Ernesto Malinowski was a builder of railroads in South America. He was once a member of a group that was asked about the possibility of building a railroad through the Andes Mountains in Peru. After several lengthy discussions and heated debates, all of the engineers involved in the discussion gave up except one: seventy-two-year-old Malinowski. His enthusiasm and energy prevailed because he believed in doing the impossible.

When completed, the project included sixty-two tunnels, thirty bridges and was interrupted and stopped twice because of wars. By Malinowski's refusal to quit, he motivated a group of fellow believers who followed his passion and overcame every obstacle and problem. His leadership, commitment, and deep faith in God made it possible to transport the abundant natural resources of the inland cities to the coastal cities and then shipped around the world.

Standing firm in our loyalty to Christ is often difficult, and at times, discouraging. However, we need to remind ourselves of the words written in Hebrews that "when we are exposed to public ridicule...trust in the Lord and remember the great reward it will bring."

God will guard, guide and reward us if we endure life's trials and remain faithful.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to stand firm in our faith and to be God-honoring and Christ-exalting in all that we do. May we rely on Your strength and trust in You at all times. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Hebrews 10:32-36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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



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## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

03-17-21-22-31

(three, seventeen, twenty-one, twenty-two, thirty-one)

Estimated jackpot: \$42,000

Lotto America

01-06-08-21-23, Star Ball: 6, ASB: 3

(one, six, eight, twenty-one, twenty-three; Star Ball: six; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$7.66 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$168 million

Powerball

12-33-54-57-60, Powerball: 13, Power Play: 4

(twelve, thirty-three, fifty-four, fifty-seven, sixty; Powerball: thirteen; Power Play: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

### Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

#### BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 58, Hanson 41

Castlewood 62, Deubrook 53

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 81, Stanley County 56

Douglas 69, Chadron, Neb. 42

Great Plains Lutheran 59, Langford 54

Harding County 66, New Underwood 46

Hemingford, Neb. 64, Edgemont 33

Herreid/Selby Area 78, Lemmon 67

Ipswich 75, Highmore-Harrold 43

Leola/Frederick 63, South Border, N.D. 29

Scottsbluff, Neb. 58, Rapid City Stevens 49

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 58, Brandon Valley 48

Sioux Valley 65, Huron 48

South Sioux City, Neb. 81, Sioux Falls Lincoln 46

Sully Buttes 46, Warner 38

Viborg-Hurley 50, Northwestern 39

Waverly-South Shore 58, Estelline/Hendricks 41

White River 68, Howard 66

Wilmot 60, Sargent Central, N.D. 39

Wolsey-Wessington 63, Wessington Springs 48

Yankton 83, Pierre 56

Dakota Oyate Challenge=

Championship=

Marty Indian 60, Tiospa Zina Tribal 57

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Fifth Place=

Lower Brule 66, Crazy Horse 27

Seventh Place=

Tiospaye Topa 71, Takini 36

Third Place=

Omaha Nation, Neb. 77, Flandreau Indian 67

DSU Classic=

Alcester-Hudson 34, Mitchell Christian 24

Andes Central/Dakota Christian 69, Freeman 51

Flandreau 62, Pine Ridge 53

Gayville-Volin 66, Iroquois 55

Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. 65, Little Wound 56

Kimball/White Lake 51, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 49

Menno 60, Wakpala 46

Richland, N.D. 74, Colman-Egan 58

NEC/Dak-XII Conference Clash=

Dakota Valley 67, Clark/Willow Lake 53

Elk Point-Jefferson 56, Aberdeen Roncalli 50

Hamlin 61, West Central 54, OT

Lennox 74, Sisseton 53

Madison 78, Redfield 54

Milbank 55, Vermillion 53

Sioux Falls Christian 62, Groton Area 47

Tea Area 72, Britton-Hecla 59

Tri-Valley 71, Deuel 45

Webster 65, Canton 57

Worthington, Minn. 70, Dell Rapids 67, OT

## **GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL**

Canistota 53, Platte-Geddes 46

Centerville 44, Aberdeen Christian 30

Chadron, Neb. 47, Douglas 31

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 67, Stanley County 25

Edgemont 42, Hemingford, Neb. 38

Faulkton 80, Hitchcock-Tulare 48

Herreid/Selby Area 41, Lemmon 40

James Valley Christian 51, Lake Preston 43

Jones County 46, Bennett County 36

Kimball/White Lake 44, Avon 36

Lyman 59, Wall 41

Marshall, Minn. 76, Watertown 53

New Underwood 54, Harding County 31

Newell 55, Philip 54

Rapid City Central 65, Rapid City Stevens 43

Rapid City Christian 58, Timber Lake 38

Rapid City Stevens 65, Scottsbluff, Neb. 43

Sargent Central, N.D. 48, Wilmot 33

Scotland 51, Freeman Academy/Marion 15

South Border, N.D. 46, Leola/Frederick 30

Waverly-South Shore 53, Estelline/Hendricks 43

Wolsey-Wessington 50, Wessington Springs 31

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Yankton 47, Pierre 38  
Big East Conference Tournament=  
Championship=  
McCook Central/Montrose 76, Flandreau 54  
Fifth Place=  
Sioux Valley 53, Baltic 38  
Seventh Place=  
Parker 49, Chester 30  
Third Place=  
Garretson 46, Beresford 37  
Dakota Oyate Challenge=  
Championship=  
Lower Brule 46, Marty Indian 35  
Fifth Place=  
Omaha Nation, Neb. 74, Crazy Horse 45  
Seventh Place=  
Takini 53, Tiospaye Topa 33  
Third Place=  
Flandreau Indian 53, Tiospa Zina Tribal 43  
Hanson Corn Palace Classic=  
Hanson 52, Mitchell Christian 19

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

## Summit leader South Dakota St. beats Western Illinois, 71-61

MACOMB, Ill. (AP) — Douglas Wilson had 18 points as Summit League-leading South Dakota State got past Western Illinois 71-61 on Saturday night.

Alex Arians had 14 points and six rebounds for South Dakota State. Noah Freidel added 11 points.

South Dakota State (17-8, 8-2) dominated the first half and led 42-24 at halftime. The Leathernecks' 24 points in the first half were a season low.

Zion Young had 16 points for the Western Illinois (5-15, 2-8), which saw its losing streak reach five games. Ben Pyle added 15 points and Kobe Webster had 12.

The Jackrabbits improve to 2-0 against the Leathernecks for the season. South Dakota State defeated Western Illinois 91-56 on Jan. 4.

South Dakota State faces Nebraska Omaha at home next Saturday. Western Illinois matches up against Purdue Fort Wayne on the road on Wednesday.

For more AP college basketball coverage: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and [http://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](http://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

This was generated by Automated Insights, <http://www.automatedinsights.com/ap>, using data from STATS LLC, <https://www.stats.com>

## Tribal police take over duties from BIA on Pine Ridge

RAPID CITY, S.D (AP) — Tribal police have taken over law enforcement duties from the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Tribal Police Chief Robert Ecoffey told the Rapid City Journal said the tribe wasn't getting "enough resources in terms of manpower" from the BIA.

The move is allowed under the 1975 Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act, which al-



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allows tribes to manage federal programs that impact their communities.

Charles Addington, director of the BIA's Office of Justice Services, said the agency supports the move.

Tribal officers will take control of the BIA's \$1.3-million budget, property, equipment and responsibilities, which include investigating higher-level crimes on the reservation, Addington said.

Ecoffey said the BIA allocates nine positions to the reservation and nine of his officers have now been promoted to detective. Two of them will focus exclusively on drug investigations and the department will maintain 53 officers in addition to the nine detectives.

Ecoffey said the BIA agents were good at their job, but there just weren't enough of them. Recently, there have been just two agents as some have retired and the BIA hasn't filled the open positions due to the transition.

## NW Iowa dairy diversifies to survive long downturn

By DONNELLE ELLER The Des Moines Register

LARCHWOOD, Iowa (AP) — Doug Stensland says his family's dairy faced a decision in 2015, when what would become a farm-ending crisis for many operations was just beginning: Do we get bigger, or do something different?

Stensland didn't foresee the prolonged downturn in the dairy industry coming, "but we knew the small farm, the family farm, was probably going to have an uphill battle" financially, he said.

So instead of milking more cows, the family decided to build a creamery.

They started bottling milk and making ice cream, cheese and butter. They opened the farm to visitors. And they took their products to groceries and established their own retail stores.

Diversifying their operation — and adding value to their milk — has helped the farm buck a wave of dairy closings.

Iowa, the U.S.' 12th-largest milk producer, lost 97 dairies last year, or about 7% of the state's operations, according to the Iowa Department of Agriculture. Neighboring Wisconsin, the nation's second-largest milk producer in 2019, lost nearly 800 dairies last year, or about 10% of its operations.

For the Stenslands, the cow-to-consumer plan is working.

"If we wouldn't have done this," Doug Stensland told The Des Moines Register, "we probably wouldn't be in the dairy business anymore."

The family's products are sold in 200 grocery stores, coffee shops, restaurants and other locations in Iowa, South Dakota and Minnesota. And the dairy is tripling its refrigerator and freezer space to accommodate growth.

The family sells their products in four locations in nearby Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and from a store on their Iowa farm. They're hoping to expand into more stores in Iowa this year.

Wrapping up the day's cheese-making recently, Justin Stensland said using their milk to make ice cream and other products gives the family more power over the prices they get.

"It's hard to take when somebody else tells you, 'This is the price of your milk,'" he said. "It takes a lot to make this all work ... but we wanted more control."

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue raised the ire of farmers last fall when he told Wisconsin dairy producers that he was unsure if small operations could survive.

Many small dairies have been forced out of business, said Larry Tranel, an Iowa State University Extension dairy specialist, but dairies of all sizes have struggled with losses over the past couple of years.

It's the most devastating downturn that Tranel said he's seen in three decades of working with dairy farmers.

Low prices, large supplies and lost export markets, combined with high production costs, are driving other types of operations, such as livestock and grain farmers, out of business, too. But the farm downturn has hit dairies especially hard. Nationally, about 2,700 dairies folded in 2018, a drop of 6.8% from 2017, U.S. Department of Agriculture data show.

No recent downturn has been longer, said Tranel, who estimates he spends about half his time helping

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farmers struggling with stress.

"People are losing their way of life," said Tranel, who compares the mental stress to the 1980s farm crisis, one of the worst recessions Iowa has experienced. "They have a hard time understanding what's going on."

And although prices are beginning to rebound with production projected to drop, Tranel said the recovery will likely take a few years as farmers work to dig out of debt and regain lost ground.

Stensland said he didn't expect to be milking cows in his 60s.

In fact, he closed the dairy when his father decided to retire from farming in 1989. His children were small, and he and his wife wanted to spend more time with them.

"I thought I was doing my kids a favor," letting them off the hook of daily chores, said Stensland, who grew corn, soybeans and alfalfa as well as working off the farm after closing the dairy.

But twin sons Justin and Jason had other ideas. They asked to restart the dairy in 2004, when they were high school juniors.

Stensland thought they'd "get it out of their blood" before going to college. Instead, they continued working on the farm, expanding the herd to about 200 cows.

Nearly nine years ago, they decided to add a robotic milker and automated systems for feeding the cows and scraping away their manure, mostly eliminating outside labor needs. That freed up the brothers to consider expanding the business.

Justin Stensland said neither he nor Jason was excited about adding more cows. But they liked the idea of selling their milk, ice cream and other products directly to consumers.

Before taking the leap, Doug Stensland said, his sons asked the entire family to join the business: him and his wife, Mona; daughter, Leah Moller; son Kyle; daughters-in-law Chelsea and Paige; and his brother, Mark.

They all agreed.

"We all went to the end of the cliff and jumped off — and we're still falling," Stensland joked.

Direct-to-consumer marketing is as old as farmers markets. But the U.S. Department of Agriculture says the concept is on the rise as consumers seek fresh, local and organic foods — and farmers look for a more sustainable business model.

In Iowa, state Agriculture Secretary Mike Naig said on-farm dairy processors like the Stenslands' have increased.

Iowa has 21 dairies with on-site creameries, Naig's office said, and three more are adding them.

"More dairies are trying to control their destiny," said Naig, who visited the Stensland farm this month. "We see some people being successful in a very trying time for dairies."

The Stenslands' farm is about 20 miles from Sioux Falls, with a metro area of 265,000 people. Although not all dairies are near a large city, more are well-positioned to make their own products, Tranel said.

He warned, though, that the move requires significant capital investment — and a lot of skills and labor to raise the crops, care for animals and make and market the products, as well as manage distribution.

Doug Stensland said he and his wife are betting the farm that the family enterprise will be a success.

"We're all-in on this working," Stensland said, adding that the rest of the family is financially committed to the new business model, too.

Stensland Family Farms now employs about 20 full- and part-time workers, in addition to the family. With growth this year, Justin Stensland said he expects the farm will use all of the milk it produces to make ice cream and other products and will need to look to nearby dairy partners to add to its supplies.

Doug Stensland said his family has mostly learned by trial and error — from making new products to jockeying for retail shelf space to running retail shops and fine-tuning the lineup to consumer preferences.

For example, Justin Stensland said he and his mother worked for a year on recipes before adding the creamery to make ice cream. Getting the vanilla flavor — the foundation for about 60 different ice creams — just right was the biggest challenge, he said.

"There have been mistakes," said Doug Stensland, such as launching too many products and taking them to too many locations. They've become more selective about the stores where their products are sold, and they no longer make butter because they use all of their cream for ice cream.

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"You have to learn stuff in the school of hard knocks," Stensland said. "None of it has been easy. But we're all committed to making it work."

And it helps, Stensland said, to work closely with family and build a business that his grandchildren may want to join someday.

"I wouldn't want to do it any differently," he said. "It's probably the most challenging thing I've ever done, but that's good. We don't have any regrets and never will."

## **Pennsylvania groundhog declares early spring 'a certainty'**

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania's most famous groundhog on Sunday declared: "Spring will be early, it's a certainty."

At sunrise on Groundhog Day, members of Punxsutawney Phil's top hat-wearing inner circle revealed the cuddly oracle's prediction — his 134th, according to the Pennsylvania Tourism Office.

Awoken by the crowd's chants of "Phil!" the groundhog was hoisted in the air for the assembly to hail before making his decision. He then grasped the glove of a handler as a member of his inner circle announced that spring would come early this year.

The annual event has its origin in a German legend that says if a furry rodent casts a shadow on Feb. 2, winter continues. If not, spring comes early.

In reality, Phil's prediction is decided ahead of time by the group on Gobbler's Knob, a tiny hill just outside Punxsutawney. That's about 65 miles (105 kilometers) northeast of Pittsburgh.

Over the past five years — from 2015 through 2019 — Phil has predicted six more weeks of winter thrice and an early spring twice. According to records dating back to 1887, the Pennsylvanian prognosticator has predicted more winter more than 100 times, making this year's forecast a rare one overall.

## **Italian-American emerges as new star of Italy's left-wing**

**By COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press**

BOLOGNA, Italy (AP) — A dual U.S.-Italian citizen who cut her political organizing teeth on two Barack Obama campaigns is emerging as the latest rising star in Italian politics.

Inside a week, 35-year-old Elly Schlein, a former European lawmaker who grew up in Switzerland, has gone from relative obscurity as a political operative to the face of Italy's new leftist forces.

That political front — embodied also by the new left-wing Sardines grassroots protest movement — thwarted right-wing populist Matteo Salvini's attempt to unseat the center-left regional government in its historic stronghold of Emilia-Romagna. That loss in the Jan. 26 regional vote also delayed Salvini's ambition to re-take power in Italy's national government.

Schlein's visibility skyrocketed just days before the election when a video went viral of her confronting Salvini — Italy's former firebrand interior minister — over his failure to show up for 22 negotiating sessions on migration policy when they both represented Italy as European lawmakers. He made her wait 80 seconds for a response while he looked at his phone, then said that he was present when it counted.

With just three months of campaigning for a place on Emilia-Romagna's regional council, Schlein won the most write-in votes in the region's electoral history. Her party, Emilia-Romagna Courageous, boosted the center-left Democratic Party incumbent's 51% majority support by nearly 4%.

The stunning result has made Schlein's political future the subject of national speculation.

She has been compared to U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a Democrat from New York, for her unexpected rise and activist-outsider status. Strangers now stop Schlein to shake her hand as she walks through Bologna, the northern Italian city where she has lived for the past 15 years, including five years shuttling to and from Brussels as a European lawmaker.

During a recent interview walking through Bologna's famed porticoes, she was stopped multiple times. One passer-by praised her as "a marvel" and declared her the next leader of the Italy's left. Another lobbied her to stop plans to route a tram through the city center — and then acknowledged she hadn't gotten his vote because he hadn't heard of her, just four days previously.



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"Something has changed," Schlein acknowledged.

Her success could give her leverage to ask for a key role in regional politics. It also has forced the head of the Democratic Party, Nicola Zingaretti, to field questions about a possible role for Schlein in the party, which she left in 2015 as part of an internal schism.

"For now, I am clearly happy where I am," Schlein said. "I am watching with interest moves inside the Democratic Party. I am looking with interest and with respect for their autonomy moves within the Sardines. I believe that the whole progressive, ecological area of the left needs to be reconstructed."

Schlein believes her experience volunteering on two Obama campaigns boosted her organizational skills, namely bringing together "diverse worlds" across generations and interests and learning to ask not just for votes but for political action.

Schlein's goal is to help create a "political home" for the many in Italy who feel disaffected as liberal, left-wing forces have splintered into more than half a dozen parties, including the Democratic Party, with similar ideals but divided by political personalities. She also aims to unite popular movements that are growing in strength in Italian piazzas, including the Fridays for Future environmental protests, movements to welcome foreigners and reinvigorated pro-LGBT and union demonstrations.

But Schlein is also looking beyond Italy's borders, with a larger goal of creating a united left that can tackle the climate emergency, migration and economic inequalities and counter the far-right model embodied by Salvini and far-right forces in France, Hungary, Britain and the United States.

"They reinforce each other with the same rhetoric of hatred and of walls, of intolerance that they carry to extremes," she said. "But where are we? Where is the international progressive and ecological front that connects battles that we are already waging?"

Schlein put together her civic list "Emilia-Romagna-Courageous" in November, at the same moment that the Sardines launched their campaign in Bologna against Salvini's anti-foreigner, anti-institutional rhetoric. The timing was coincidental, and their projects remain separate even if they shared a vision to counter the decisive rhetoric coming from Salvini, who campaigned hard for his populist League candidate in the region.

The Sardines rose to unexpected success, gathering 6,000 people in Bologna during their first protest in November, and reaching some 40,000 just before the election. Their activism is credited with sharply boosting turnout in the regional election, according to the SWG polling organization.

Yet the Sardines still remain outside politics, so for now it's not clear how their energy can be channeled into future Italian elections, including six regional votes this spring. They plan to meet in Naples in March to chart a way forward.

Schlein's family history embodies the European experience of the last century, which she says informs her politics.

One paternal grandfather emigrated from Lviv, in present-day Ukraine, to the United States before World War II, and lost the rest of his family who stayed behind in the Holocaust. A maternal grandfather in Italy suffered insults as a lawyer defending Jews under Fascist rule.

"I feel like a citizen of the world, a citizen of Europe. I was born in Switzerland. I am American, but I have never lived in the United States. I am culturally Italian. But these incomplete origins that overlap have formed me in a very profound way," Schlein said. "They have surely informed my belief in a European federalism. I am convinced that we need true European integration to respond to new challenges."

## Philippines reports 1st virus death outside of China

BEIJING (AP) — The Philippines on Sunday reported the first death from a new virus outside of China, where authorities delayed the opening of schools in the worst-hit province and tightened quarantine measures in a city that allow only one family member to venture out to buy supplies.

The Philippine Department of Health said a 44-year-old Chinese man from Wuhan was admitted on Jan. 25 after experiencing a fever, cough, and sore throat. He developed severe pneumonia, and in his last few days, "the patient was stable and showed signs of improvement, however, the condition of the patient deteriorated within his last 24 hours resulting in his demise."

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The man's 38-year-old female companion, also from Wuhan, also tested positive for the virus and remains in hospital isolation in Manila.

President Rodrigo Duterte approved a temporary ban on all travelers, except Filipinos, from China and its autonomous regions. The U.S., Japan, Singapore and Australia have imposed similar restrictions despite criticism from China and an assessment from the World Health Organization that they were unnecessarily hurting trade and travel.

The death toll in China climbed by 45 to 304 and the number of cases by 2,590 to 14,380, according to the National Health Commission, well above the number of those infected in in the 2002-03 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, which broke out in southern China and spread worldwide.

Meanwhile, six officials in the city of Huanggang, neighboring the epicenter of Wuhan in Hubei province, have been fired over "poor performance" in handling the outbreak, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

It cited the mayor as saying the city's "capabilities to treat the patients remained inadequate and there is a severe shortage in medical supplies such as protective suits and medical masks."

After Huanggang, the trading center of Wenzhou in coastal Zhejiang province also confined people to homes, allowing only one family member to venture out every other day to buy necessary supplies.

With the outbreak showing little sign of abating, authorities in Hubei and elsewhere have extended the Lunar New Year holiday, due to end this week, well into February. The annual travel crunch of millions of people returning from their hometowns to the cities is thought to pose a major threat of secondary infection at a time when authorities are encouraging people to avoid public gatherings.

All Hubei schools will postpone the opening of the new semester until further notice and students from elsewhere who visited over the holiday will also be excused from classes.

Far away on China's southeast coast, the manufacturing hub of Wenzhou put off the opening of government offices until Feb. 9, private businesses until Feb. 17 and schools until March 1.

With nearly 10 million people, Wenzhou has reported 241 confirmed cases of the virus, one of the highest levels outside Hubei. Similar measures have been announced in the provinces and cities of Heilongjiang, Shandong, Guizhou, Hebei and Hunan, while the major cities of Shanghai and Beijing were on indefinite leave pending developments.

Despite imposing drastic travel restrictions at home, China has chafed at those imposed by foreign governments, criticizing Washington's order barring entry to most non-citizens who visited China in the past two weeks. Apart from dinging China's international reputation, such steps could worsen a domestic economy already growing at its lowest rate in decades.

The crisis is the latest to confront Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who has been beset by months of anti-government protests in the semi-autonomous Chinese city of Hong Kong, the reelection of Taiwan's pro-independence president and criticism over human rights violations in the traditionally Muslim northwestern territory of Xinjiang. Economically, Xi faces lagging demand and dramatically slower growth at home while the tariff war with the U.S. remains largely unresolved.

New Zealand announced Sunday it is temporarily banning travelers from China to protect the South Pacific region from the virus. The 14-day ban applies to foreigners leaving China but not to New Zealand residents. New Zealand also raised its travel advice for China to "Do not travel," the highest level.

Among a growing number of airlines suspending flights to mainland China was Qatar Airways. The Doha-based carrier said on its website that its flights would stop Monday. It blamed "significant operational challenges caused by entry restrictions imposed by a number of countries" for the suspension of flights.

Indonesia and Oman also halted flights to China, as did Saudi Arabia's flagship national carrier, Saudia.

Saudi Arabia's state-run media reported that 10 Saudi students were evacuated from Wuhan on a special flight. It said the students would be screened upon arrival and quarantined for 14 days.

This weekend, South Korea and India flew hundreds of their citizens out of Wuhan. They went into a two-week quarantine.

On Sunday, South Korea reported three more cases for a total of 15. They include an evacuee, a Chinese relative of a man who tested positive and a man who returned from Wuhan. India reported a second case, also in southern Kerala state.

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South Korea also barred foreigners who have stayed or traveled to Hubei province within the last 14 days from entering the country.

Indonesia flew back 241 nationals from Wuhan on Sunday and quarantined them on the remote Natuna Islands for two weeks. Several hundred residents protested the move, with one saying, "This is not because we do not have a sense of solidarity with fellow nationals. But because we fear they could infect us with the deadly virus from China."

A Turkish military transport plane carrying 42 people arrived in Ankara from Wutan Saturday night. The 32 Turkish, six Azerbaijani, three Georgian nationals and an Albanian will remain under observation for 14 days, together with 20 personnel who participated in the evacuation, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said.

Vietnam counted its seventh case, a Vietnamese-American man who had a two-hour layover in Wuhan on his way from the U.S. to Ho Chi Minh City.

The virus' rapid spread in two months prompted the WHO on Thursday to declare it a global emergency.

That declaration "flipped the switch" from a cautious attitude to recommending governments prepare for the possibility the virus might spread, said the WHO representative in Beijing, Gauden Galea. Most cases reported so far have been people who visited China or their family members.

WHO said it was especially concerned that some cases abroad involved human-to-human transmission.

"Countries need to get ready for possible importation in order to identify cases as early as possible and in order to be ready for a domestic outbreak control, if that happens," Galea told The Associated Press.

Both the new virus and SARS are from the coronavirus family, which also includes those that cause the common cold.

The death rate in China is falling, but the number of confirmed cases will keep growing because thousands of specimens from suspected cases have yet to be tested, Galea said.

"The case fatality ratio is settling out at a much lower level than we were reporting three, now four, weeks ago," he said.

Although scientists expect to see limited transmission of the virus between people with family or other close contact, they are concerned about cases of infection spreading to people who might have less exposure.

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Associated Press writers Jim Gomez in Manila, Philippines, Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea, Niniek Karmini in Jakarta, Indonesia, Hau Dinh in Hanoi, Vietnam, Binaj Gurubacharya in Kathmandu, Nepal, Jon Gambrell and Aya Batrawy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Andrew Wilks in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

## **Pompeo, in Kazakhstan, warns of China's growing reach**

**By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer**

NUR-SULTAN, Kazakhstan (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday pressed Kazakhstan to be wary of Chinese investment and influence, urging the Central Asian nation and others to join calls demanding an end to China's repression of minorities.

Bringing a message similar to the one he has delivered repeatedly to other countries, Pompeo told senior Kazakh officials that the attractiveness of Chinese investment comes with a cost to sovereignty and may hurt, instead of help, the country's long-term development.

"We fully support Kazakhstan's freedom to choose to do business with whichever country it wants, but I am confident that countries get the best outcomes when they partner with American companies," he said. "You get fair deals. You get job creation. You get transparency in contracts. You get companies that care about the environment and you get an unsurpassed commitment to quality work."

Pompeo began his brief visit to the country by meeting with ethnic Kazakhs whose families have gone missing or been detained in China's widespread crackdown on Muslims and other ethnic and religious minorities in its western Xinjiang region.



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"The protection of basic human rights defines the soul of a nation," he said, thanking Kazakhstan for taking in those fleeing persecution. "The United States urges all countries to join us in pressing for immediate end to this repression. We ask simply for them to provide safe refuge and asylum for those seeking to flee China. To protect dignity, just do what's right."

Pompeo also congratulated Kazakhstan on its repatriation of Islamic State fighters from Iraq and Syria. Kazakhstan has taken back nearly 600 fighters and family members detained in areas formerly controlled by the group.

"I have and will continue to commend the Kazakhstani government for its leadership in repatriating foreign terrorists fighters and their families from Iraq and Syria," he said. "I hope this commitment to justice will inspire other nations to do the same."

However, Kazakhstan has some under some criticism for pressuring an activist who had campaigned for the release of ethnic Kazakhs in China. Threatened with a long prison sentence, the man signed an admission of guilt for inciting ethnic tensions.

In addition, Pompeo was urging senior officials in the Central Asian nation to continue reforms that would allow greater U.S. investment in the country.

At a news conference with Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tleuberdi, Pompeo praised Kazakhstan for its efforts to counter the spread of a new virus from China. He said the United States is helping the country with expertise from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and providing laboratory equipment.

Kazakhstan's "quick action to stop the spread of the virus has been incredibly impressive," he said.

Kazakhstan is among the growing list of countries that have suspended travel links with China.

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This story corrects the spelling of the foreign minister's last name to Tleuberdi.

## Spray planes combat the huge locust outbreak in East Africa

By **JOE MWIHIA, JOSPHAT KASIRE and BEN CURTIS** Associated Press

NASUULU CONSERVANCY, Kenya (AP) — As locusts by the billions — yes, billions — descend on parts of Kenya in the worst outbreak in 70 years, small planes are flying low over affected areas to spray pesticides in what experts call the only effective control.

It is challenging work, especially in remote areas where mobile phone signals are absent and ground crews cannot quickly communicate coordinates to flight teams.

The ground crews are in "the most woeful terrains," Marcus Dunn, a pilot and the director at Farmland Aviation, said Saturday. "If there is no network, then the fellow on a boda boda (motorcycle), he has to rush off now and go and get a network."

Just five planes are currently spraying as Kenyan and other authorities try to stop the locusts from spreading to neighboring Uganda and South Sudan. The United Nations has said \$76 million is needed immediately to widen such efforts across East Africa.

A fast response is crucial. Experts warn that if left unchecked, the number of locusts could grow by 500 times by June, when drier weather will help bring the outbreak under control.

The finger-length locusts swept into Kenya from Somalia and Ethiopia after unusually heavy rains in recent months, decimating crops in some areas and threatening millions of vulnerable people with a hunger crisis.

Somalia's agriculture ministry on Sunday called the outbreak a national emergency and major threat to the country's fragile food security, saying the "uncommonly large" locust swarms are consuming huge amounts of crops.

In swarms the size of major cities, the locusts also have affected parts of Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea, whose agriculture ministry says both the military and general public have been deployed to combat them.

Kenya's agriculture minister has acknowledged that authorities weren't prepared for the scope of the infestation this year. That's not surprising, considering it's been decades since the country's last comparable outbreak, U.N. officials say.

The locusts also are heading toward the breadbasket of Ethiopia, Africa's second-most populous country,

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in that nation's worst outbreak in 25 years. On Thursday, startled residents of Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, started reported sightings of the insects.

"I was surprised to find the locusts inside my living room," said one resident, Mathewos Girma, showing a photo on his mobile phone. "It appears it is knocking on each and every one of our doors."

Zebdewos Selato, an agriculture ministry official, told The Associated Press the relatively few locusts reaching Ethiopia's capital are "leftovers" from the "massive invasion" in the eastern and southern parts of the country. Spraying is being conducted around the city to stop the outbreak from spreading elsewhere, he said.

Until the drier weather in June, more rain across the region will bring fresh vegetation to fuel further waves of locust breeding. One field in Kenya on Saturday appeared to be full of mating bright yellow locusts.

"They are trying to mate and reproduce, so we need more help and because we are racing against time," said Salat Tutana, the chief agriculture officer in Isiolo county.

"So far we have decimated around five swarms in Samburu and Isiolo (counties) but we keep on receiving more swarms every week, and that is a lot in terms of the ecosystem," he said. "They are destroying the environment."

Within hours, the locusts can strip a pasture of much of its vegetation.

"That's a very sad situation, especially for the pastoralists" whose livelihoods rely on their cattle, Tutana said.

Just hours after the spraying, the normally bouncing locusts were dozy, slow and dying. They lay scattered on the ground, crunching underfoot.

The five planes currently operating are capable of looking over this part of Kenya, Dunn said, but if there's an increase in locusts in other parts of the country "we are going to need some more assistance, because we just don't know how big this problem is going to be."

Elias Meseret in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia contributed.

## Fears of new virus trigger anti-China sentiment worldwide

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A scary new virus from China has spread around the world. So has rising anti-Chinese sentiment, calls for a full travel ban on Chinese visitors and indignities for Chinese and other Asians.

Restaurants in South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Vietnam have refused to accept Chinese customers. Indonesians marched near a hotel and called on Chinese guests there to leave. French and Australian newspapers face criticism for racist headlines. Chinese and other Asians in Europe, the United States, Asia and the Pacific complain of racism.

Two dozen countries outside of China have reported cases of the new coronavirus, which has killed more than 300 people and sickened thousands of others in China. Many countries have sent planes to the Chinese city of Wuhan to evacuate their nationals.

The anti-China sentiments come as a powerful Beijing bolsters its global influence, and China's rise has caused trade, political and diplomatic disputes with many countries.

But with rising fear of the mysterious disease has come a more acute anti-Chinese and, in some cases, anti-Asian backlash.

Here's a look from AP journalists from around the world:

### SOUTH KOREA

South Korean websites have been flooded with comments calling on the government to block or expel Chinese and racist remarks about Chinese eating habits and hygiene. A popular Seoul seafood restaurant frequented by Chinese tourists posted a sign saying "No entry for Chinese" before taking it down Wednesday after an online backlash.

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More than 650,000 South Koreans have signed an online petition filed with the presidential Blue House calling for a temporary ban on Chinese visitors. Some conservative opposition lawmakers publicly back these steps, and about 30 people rallied near the Blue House on Wednesday demanding the government immediately ban Chinese tourists.

"Unconditional xenophobia against the Chinese is intensifying" in South Korea, the mass-circulation JoongAng Ilbo newspaper said in an editorial Thursday. "Infectious diseases are a matter of science, not an issue that can be resolved through an emotional outpouring."

## THE UNITED STATES

After news broke that someone attending Arizona State University has the virus, Ari Deng, who is Chinese American, said she sat down at a study table on the Tempe, Arizona, campus near five other students.

Deng, who was the only Asian, said the other students began whispering. "They got really tense and they quickly gathered their stuff and just left at the same time."

In a recent business class a non-Asian student "said 'Not to be racist, but there's a lot of international students that live in my apartment complex. I try my best to keep my distance but I think it's a good precaution for all of us to wash our hands,'" Deng said.

"It stings but I don't let it take up room in my mind or weigh on my conscience," she said.

Meanwhile, the University of California, Berkeley's health services center removed an Instagram post Thursday that said "fears about interacting with those who might be from Asia and guilt about these feelings" were a normal reaction to the coronavirus outbreak.

"No matter how much time we spend in this country, at times we are almost immediately viewed as a foreigner," Gregg Orton, the national director of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, said. "It's a pretty frustrating reality for many of us."

## HONG KONG

The virus has deepened anti-Chinese sentiment in Hong Kong, where months of street protests against Beijing's influence have roiled the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

Last week, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam suspended ferry and high-speed train services to the mainland and reduced flights between Hong Kong and Chinese cities.

Tenno Ramen, a Japanese noodle restaurant in Hong Kong, is refusing to serve mainland customers.

"We want to live longer. We want to safeguard local customers. Please excuse us," the restaurant said on Facebook.

## EUROPE

A French teacher started a Twitter conversation recently under #JeNeSuisPasUnVirus (I am not a virus) that has drawn numerous accounts of discrimination, from children taunted in the schoolyard to subway passengers moving away from people who appear Asian.

France has a significant and growing Asian community, and Chinese visitors are a pillar of the French tourism industry, but old prejudices run deep. A regional newspaper in northern France carried a front-page headline warning of a "Yellow Alert," and later apologized amid national criticism.

"It's a virus that comes from a region in China. It could have come from North Africa, Europe or anywhere," said Soc Lam, a legal adviser to Chinese community groups in Paris. "People should not consider that just because we are Asian, we are more likely to spread the virus."

A Danish paper, Jyllands-Posten, published a cartoon that replaced the yellow stars of the Chinese flag with representations of the virus. The Chinese Embassy in Copenhagen called the cartoon "an insult to China" and demanded the newspaper apologize.

The German Der Spiegel magazine ran a headline that said "made in China" along with a photo of an individual in protective gear.

On Friday, a cafe near Rome's Trevi Fountain, a popular tourist site, posted a notice in its window saying



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"all people coming from China are not allowed access in this place," according to the Italian news agency ANSA. When AP journalists went there to check on it, the post was no longer in the window.

## AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND

More than 51,000 signatures have appeared on an online petition demanding apologies from Australia's two biggest-circulation newspapers over their headlines.

The petition condemned Melbourne's Herald Sun headline Wednesday that read, "Chinese virus pandamonium," a misspelling that plays on China's native pandas, and Sydney's The Daily Telegraph headline on the same day that read, "China kids stay home."

Singaporean Kiwi Dollice Chua told the New Zealand Herald that when she went to an Auckland mall last week to buy a wedding card a woman gave her a dirty look and told her "You Asians are the ones who brought this virus." Chua has lived in New Zealand for 21 years. "It's racist and beyond rude," she said.

## JAPAN

Many Japanese have taken to social media to call for a travel ban for the Chinese visitors amid worries they'll come to Japan for virus-related treatments. One tweet said, "Please ban Chinese tourists immediately," while another said, "I'm so worried that my child may catch the virus."

A candy store in Hakone, a hot springs town west of Tokyo, recently made headlines after it posted a note saying, "Chinese people's entry into the store is prohibited." On Wednesday, Menya Hareruya, a popular ramen chain in Sapporo on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, posted a sign saying "No entry for Chinese tourists."

Zhang Jiaqi, a Chinese student in Tokyo, said he has not faced any unpleasant response from his Japanese classmates and friends, but, he added, "I noticed that some people have turned around or watched me with angry looks on their face when I was talking to my friends in Chinese."

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

Last weekend, several hundred residents in the Indonesian tourist city of Bukittinggi marched to the Novotel Hotel, where some 170 Chinese tourists were staying, to protest their entrance into Indonesia.

They blocked roads near the hotel to prevent the Chinese, who'd arrived a day earlier, from getting out of the hotel. Local authorities decided to send the visitors back to China later in the day.

More than 400,000 Malaysians have signed an online petition calling for a ban on Chinese travelers and urging the government to "save our family and our children."

A hotel in Danang, Vietnam, a popular beach destination, has been refusing to accept Chinese tourists.

A former police officer and town mayor, Abner Afuang, said he burned a Chinese flag on Friday in front of the National Press Club in Manila to protest the problems China has brought to the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries, including the virus and Beijing's claim to disputed islands in the South China Sea.

The Philippine president's office said in a statement: "Let us not engage in discriminatory behavior, nor act with any bias towards our fellowmen. The reality is everyone is susceptible to the virus."

Associated Press writers Kim Tong-hyung, Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Terry Tang in Phoenix, Arizona, Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo, Niniek Karmini in Jakarta, Indonesia, Jim Gomez in Manila, Philippines, Angela Charlton in Paris, David Keyton in Stockholm, Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia, Hau Dinh in Hanoi, Vietnam, Alice Fung in Hong Kong and Nick Perry in Wellington, New Zealand, contributed to this report.

## Police: 2 dead, 1 wounded in shooting after Florida funeral

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Gunfire erupted after a funeral Saturday in Florida, killing a teenager and a man and leaving one other person wounded, police said.

Riviera Beach police said in a statement that the shooting happened near the Victory City Church shortly after 2:30 p.m. They said a 15-year-old boy and 47-year-old Royce Freeman died at the scene. The teen's

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name wasn't immediately released.

Police initially said a woman and a teenager were also wounded, but later released a statement Sunday night saying the juvenile male was shot at a different location in Riviera Beach. The woman, whose name police didn't immediately release, suffered non-life-threatening injuries, police said. No arrests were announced as of late Saturday.

Police said listening devices in the area that detect the sound of gunshots counted 13 rounds fired.

Pastor Tywuante D. Lupoe said in a video statement posted on Facebook that the church was "very aware" that violence was a possibility at the funeral because of a family dispute and that it had provided armed security. A Riviera Beach police officer also was present, he said.

He said the security guards and police officer had left after the service when there were only a few stragglers remaining in the area. He said that's when a fight broke out across the street from the church and the shooting erupted; police also said the shooting didn't happen on church grounds. He said none of the victims are church members and no one was injured on its property. He did not provide further details about the funeral.

"This is an isolated incident and it had nothing to do with Victory City Church," Lupoe said.

Police echoed the pastor's statement, saying the victims and the shooter knew each other and police believe the shooting was a result of a dispute between relatives of the deceased.

"The shooting was not a random act of violence," police spokesman AJ Walker said in the statement. Riviera Beach is a suburb of West Palm Beach.

## High-profile Iowa poll won't be released

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The Des Moines Register, CNN and its polling partner have decided not to release the final installment of its presidential preference poll, fearing its results may have been compromised.

Carol Hunter, the executive editor of the Iowa newspaper, posted the announcement Saturday night at the same time the results of the highly anticipated survey were supposed to be released.

Hunter said that one of the poll respondents reported concerns earlier in the day, which raised questions about the integrity of the results.

"It appears a candidate's name was omitted in at least one interview in which the respondent was asked to name their preferred candidate," Hunter wrote in an article posted on the Register's website.

"While this appears to be isolated to one surveyor, we cannot confirm that with certainty. Therefore, the partners made the difficult decision to not to move forward with releasing the Iowa Poll."

CNN political director David Chalian said it wasn't clear whether the issue with the single respondent was an isolated incident.

"So out of an abundance of caution CNN and the Des Moines Register and Seltzer, the company who conducts the poll, decided not to release tonight's poll," Chalian said. "We take the standards that we apply to our polling very seriously."

The decision to halt the release of the poll was based on a technical irregularity, involving the font size on a computer screen for one of the polltakers, a person at CNN told The Associated Press.

The font at that computer was enlarged and cut off or obscured the bottom name on the list. That name was Pete Buttigieg's, but it could have been any name because the names automatically randomize after every call.

Because the respondent did not hear Buttigieg's name, the respondent contacted Selzer, who brought the irregularity to the attention of CNN and The Des Moines Register.

Because CNN, the Register and Selzer were unable to determine if it was a one-time occurrence, the partners decided they could not move forward with releasing the poll, the person at CNN said. The person was not authorized to discuss the details by name and requested anonymity.

## Democrats focus on unity as tensions from 2016 linger

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

NORTH LIBERTY, Iowa (AP) — Democratic presidential candidates promised voters in Iowa on Saturday they would unify the party to take on President Donald Trump even as they kept up their criticism of each other and navigated the lingering divides from the 2016 campaign.

"I'm confident Americans, Republican voters, Democratic voters and independent voters want us to come together," former Vice President Joe Biden said in North Liberty. "I'm going to do whatever it takes to make progress in the areas that matter most."

About 20 miles away in Cedar Rapids, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren updated her stump speech to include a more explicit call for unity.

"We're down to the final strokes here," she said. "But we understand that, we will and we must come together as a party to beat Donald Trump and I've got a plan for that."

And Bernie Sanders insisted he would back the ultimate Democratic nominee even if it's not him.

"Let me say this so there's no misunderstanding," the Vermont senator said in Indianola. "If we do not win, we will support the winner and I know that every other candidate will do the same."

On the eve of Monday's Iowa caucuses, the unity pledges marked an early — and urgent — effort to avoid the divides that some Democrats say helped Trump win the presidency in 2016. After a year of campaigning, most polls show a tight race between Biden, Warren, Sanders and Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana. Those candidates, along with Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and businessman Andrew Yang, crisscrossed Iowa on Saturday seeking a breakout victory that would propel them deeper into the contests that will decide the Democratic nomination.

Most surveys show the top four candidates jumbled at the top. And on Saturday, the final Des Moines Register poll — traditionally seen as the gold standard survey of the caucus electorate — was pulled from publication after questions about its methodology. The newspaper said Buttigieg may have been left off the list presented to a caucus-goer in at least one call.

To break out of the pack, the candidates have focused on a wide variety of policy issues ranging from free college tuition to the role of government in health care, criminal justice reform, gun control and solutions to climate change. But the biggest issue on the minds of many voters is landing on a candidate who can beat Trump.

Anxiety over the party's ability to unify grew over the past two weeks after Hillary Clinton, Sanders' 2016 primary rival, twice criticized the senator for not doing enough to bring Democrats together after their bruising battle.

The divide was on display Friday when Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., appeared at a Sanders event in Iowa and booed at the mention of Clinton. She later issued a statement saying she "allowed my disappointment with Secretary Clinton's latest comments about Senator Sanders and his supporters get the best of me" and would "strive to come from a place of love and not react in the same way of those who are against what we are building in this country."

Faiz Shakir, Sanders' campaign manager, retweeted her statement and said: "We love your passion and conviction. Don't change."

Clinton spokesperson Nick Merrill called that comment "unbelievable."

"It's not enough that she booed her party's last nominee, but they're making sure it's clear she doesn't have to regret it," Merrill tweeted.

The incident underscored questions about how Democrats can thread together clashing factions to develop a coalition that spans generations, races and economic status to defeat Trump. With Sanders showing some signs of strength in Iowa, some voters said they wouldn't support him because of concerns he would divide the party.

Lisa Stolba, a retired school counselor from Cedar Rapids who attended a Biden event in North Liberty, said she's undecided, considering Klobuchar, Buttigieg, Biden and Warren.

Sanders was not on the list for a few reasons. He was too "socialistic," she worried about his health and



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age — Biden's too, she added — and she's wasn't confident Sanders could unite the party. Stolba, 59, noted she was still smarting over whether he told Warren that a woman can't win. Sanders denied the comment. "I think that he said it," she said.

But Stolba said she'll still vote for Sanders if were the the nominee. "If he's the only one, yeah, I'm not going to vote for Trump."

Sanders, for his part, has drawn crowds stretching into the thousands at his events, a clear demonstration of the enthusiasm surrounding his campaign. It's that energy, he and his supporters argue, that will bring the party together and inspire voters across the spectrum to support his candidacy in November.

Some candidates saw an opportunity in the infighting. The 38-year-old Buttigieg has made generational change a central argument of his campaign and said Saturday that the divides underscore his point.

"I didn't much enjoy as a Democrat living through the experience of 2016 and I want to make sure 2020 resembles 2016 as little as possible," he told reporters after a rally in Waterloo.

Buttigieg went on to emphasize that the candidates "are much more aligned than you would think."

But on stage later in the day, he revived his criticism of Biden and Sanders, outlining what he called "a respectful difference of approach among people who share the same values, share the same goals."

"The vice president is suggesting this is no time to take a risk on someone new," he said. "I'm suggesting this is no time to take a risk on trying to meet a fundamentally new challenge with a familiar playbook. It's going to take something new."

Buttigieg criticized Sanders for "offering an approach that suggests it's either revolution or it's the status quo, and there's nothing in between."

And although he made a pitch to unity, Biden still went after Sanders' policy checklist on the stump — though he avoided naming the Vermont senator.

"Talk is cheap. In politics, sometimes talk is very expensive, especially when you don't tell people how you pay for what you say you're going to do," Biden said in Waterloo. "Be straight. Tell the people what it's going to cost."

Biden referenced some estimates that put Sanders' big-ticket proposals on single-payer health care, college debt forgiveness and tuition-free college tuition at more than \$60 trillion over 10 years. "I wonder why they don't know how much it's gonna cost," he added, an allusion to Sanders recently telling CBS News that he doesn't know exactly what his Medicare for All plan would cost the federal government.

Some voters said they felt that, regardless of the divisions within the party, Trump was enough of a unifying factor on his own that Democrats will have no issues after the primary. Tom Taiber, a 73-year-old from Waverly, said he wasn't worried about Democrats coming together to rally around the party's eventual nominee, even if the primary becomes divisive.

"The family of Democrats, we're going to have differences of opinion," he said.

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Associated Press writers Julie Pace and Tom Beaumont in Waterloo, Iowa, and Bill Barrow in North Liberty, Iowa, contributed to this report.

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

## Experts: Travel bans, business closures could hurt economy

By IVAN MORENO Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Travel restrictions and business closures aimed at stopping the spread of a new virus that has killed more than 300 people in China could end up causing ripple effects that harm the global economy, experts say.

"When you stop planes and ships, trains and and motor vehicles from moving, it starts to shut down the economy — and that can have a cascading effect throughout society," Dr. Eric Toner, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, said Saturday, after multiple airlines announced that they would suspend or cut back on flights to and from China, and several countries, including the U.S.,

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imposed travel restrictions. "And it's not just airline pilots who get out of work, I mean, it's you know, it's everybody that they depend on."

It's not just airlines that have cut back on business in China. Apple Inc. announced Saturday that it was temporarily close all of its offices and its 42 stores in mainland China. Google, Amazon and Microsoft previously announced plans to temporarily shutter offices, and Starbucks and McDonald's have closed some chains.

Apple said it was acting "out of an abundance of caution and based on the latest advice from leading health experts." Its stores will be closed until Feb. 9.

Toner said Apple's decision could also be harmful to the economy and Apple itself, though he noted that many companies, including airlines, are trying to protect their employees.

Toner led a summit in October with World Economic Forum and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to discuss the negative impacts of trade and travel restrictions during a pandemic. In a paper that came out of that meeting, the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security concluded that "fear and uncertainty experienced during past outbreaks, even those limited to a national or regional level, have sometimes led to unjustified border measures."

The U.S., Australia, Singapore and Japan have imposed travel restrictions and Vietnam suspended all flights to China. U.S. officials pointed to how quickly the virus has spread around the globe as justification, although world health officials have warned against such measures.

At least 24 countries have reported cases of the new virus, which is from the coronavirus family.

"Travel restrictions can cause more harm than good by hindering info-sharing, medical supply chains and harming economies," World Health Organization Secretary-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

Toner said governments are ultimately "trying to do something that has very little benefit but very real harm."

"It's been shown over and over again that putting up barriers to travel doesn't stop contagious infectious diseases," he said, pointing to past outbreaks of Ebola, Zika and even influenza.

Instead, he said, governments should educate people about the virus and urge people who may have been exposed to isolate themselves.

## Sanders calls for unity, but his supporters have other ideas

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — When Bernie Sanders addresses throngs of supporters who gather at his rallies, the divisions that plague the Democratic Party can feel far away. The Vermont senator speaks of building a "multiracial, multi-generational movement" that will cut through economic divides, catapult him into the White House and transform the nation.

Some of the highest-profile surrogates campaigning on his behalf are less sanguine.

Speaking at a concert for Sanders on Friday night, Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., led sustained booing from the stage at the mention of Hillary Clinton, his rival in the 2016 primary. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a New York Democrat who has campaigned for Sanders across Iowa, says the Democratic establishment should conform to the progressive movement, not the other way around. "We aren't pushing the party left, we are bringing the party home," she says.

Then there's filmmaker Michael Moore, who fires up Sanders crowds by bashing "corporate Democrats" and suggesting that the party's own leadership may swoop in and steal the 2020 nomination from Sanders in a way that some of the senator's supporters believe it did in 2016.

Such episodes demonstrate the tension at the heart of Sanders' campaign as he shows signs of strength heading into Monday's caucuses. While the self-described democratic socialist has never backed away from his call for political revolution, the visions of unity he also articulates are sometimes at odds with the rhetoric espoused by his supporters. The dynamic is playing out at a precarious time for the Democratic Party, which will have to unite to unseat President Donald Trump.

"The Sanders supporters are demanding that everybody unite behind Bernie, but if they want Democrats

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to unite behind Bernie they have to be ready to unite behind the moderate Democrats," said Democratic strategist Brad Bannon. "And they've not yet shown that they will do that. They've not shown that, if things don't go their way, they won't just stay home in November."

Sanders is bunched near the top of many polls in Iowa with progressive rival Elizabeth Warren and with former Vice President Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg, the former Mayor of South Bend, Indiana, who represent the moderate wing of the party, along with Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar. If he were to win the caucuses and also notch a victory in New Hampshire, which holds its primary on Feb. 11, Sanders will face growing pressure to show his campaign will be open to all factions of the party.

Conversely, a series of losses would amplify calls on Sanders to ensure that his supporters rally behind the ultimate nominee. He insisted on Saturday that he would do just that.

"Let me say this so there's no misunderstanding," he told a rally in Indianola, Iowa. "If we do not win, we will support the winner and I know that every other candidate will do the same."

Sanders has earnestly tried to quell intra-party division in other ways, too, describing many of his fellow Democratic presidential rivals as his longtime friends who are "good people." But, often in the same breath, he gleefully fans the flames, calling his campaign the political and corporate establishment's "worst nightmare."

Sanders' problem is he may only be able to achieve true unity by compromising on what many supporters see as his greatest strength: consistency over his decades in political office — even on positions that bucked this own party.

"For young people in particular, there's an authenticity and a level of trust that is hard to garner from some of the other candidates," said Evan Weber, political director for the Sunrise Movement, a youth-led activist group supporting the sweeping "Green New Deal" to combat climate change which has endorsed Sanders' presidential bid. "His record is being consistent and relentless in demanding what he thought was just and was right for decades."

But what some see as unwavering commitment to core ideals, others see as hostile.

"I just think he's too angry," said Paula Peeper, a 76-year-old retired office worker from Waterloo, Iowa, "especially when he says he's the one to unite the party."

Peeper, attending a rally Saturday for Buttigieg, said Sanders risks alienating voters in the closing stretch, especially when they see him leading in some Iowa polls, giving undecided voters reason to think harder about his rivals.

"It's not helpful for Bernie to be fighting," she said. "I think Biden, Pete and Klobuchar could be the beneficiaries of it."

Melissa Dunlevy, 34, was a stalwart Sanders supporter and campaign volunteer in 2016, but now plans to support Buttigieg, thinking he could do a better job attracting Republicans and independents needed to beat Trump.

"I'm passionate about every single thing Bernie says, I'm 100 percent there," Dunlevy said. "But it's just another giant extreme, it's another thing that's so partisan, it's another thing that divides us."

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Associated Press writers Thomas Beaumont and Julie Pace in n Waterloo, Iowa, contributed to this report.

## Safeties first: Polamalu, Atwater heading to Hall of Fame

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

MIAMI (AP) — He grew his hair so long, it flowed out of his helmet and obscured the name on the back of his jersey.

Didn't matter. Everyone knew where to find Troy Polamalu on Sundays.

The Steelers great earned a spot in the Pro Football Hall of Fame along with another hard-hitting safety, Steve Atwater of Denver. Also voted in Saturday were receiver Isaac Bruce, running back Edgerrin James and guard Steve Hutchinson.

Polamalu said he went six or seven years, maybe longer, without cutting his hair during the prime of a



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career that lasted from 2003-14.

But as much as for the hair, he earned the nickname "Tasmanian Devil" for how he changed the way people thought about the safety position. Compact and fleet of foot at 5-foot-10 and 200 pounds, Polamalu bolted around the field, and made plays from practically anywhere. No quarterback, runner or receiver was safe.

Selected in his first year of eligibility, Polamalu was a four-time All-Pro, was voted to eight Pro Bowls and finished with two Super Bowl rings in three trips. His rambling, cross-the-field fourth-quarter pick-six against Joe Flacco in the 2008 AFC title game cemented the win and was a highlight of what might have been his best season; he had seven interceptions that year and the Steelers won the Super Bowl.

Polamalu will go in the same year as Pittsburgh coach Bill Cowher and defensive back Donnie Shell, each of whom were voted in as part of the hall's special centennial class designed to celebrate the NFL's 100th year.

"It's a huge blessing to go in with Coach Cowher and a tremendous honor to go in with Donnie Shell because the Steelers' defenses in the '70s laid our foundation," Polamalu said.

Though game-changing safeties were nothing new to the league, Polamalu could line up near the linebackers, or the defensive linemen, or deep in the backfield, and wreck a game plan from any of those spots.

"He's waking people up to the impact a safety can have in today's game," another safety, John Lynch, said in an interview while Polamalu was in his prime.

Lynch, in Miami this week for the Super Bowl as GM of the 49ers, was also among the 15 finalists whose resumes were debated and discussed throughout the day by the panel of four dozen voters. But he did not make the cut. Neither did Tony Boselli, the dominant Jaguars offensive lineman whose career lasted only 91 games because of shoulder injuries. The Jaguars are still without a player in the hall.

An offensive lineman did make it, though. It was Steve Hutchinson, who played guard for the Seahawks, Vikings and Titans over a 12-year career. He'd been a finalist in all three years since becoming eligible and broke through in this, a class that didn't include any slam dunks — or a single quarterback among the list of finalists.

"I've written the speech the past few years in the shower and it'll really be about the people who helped me get here," Hutchinson said.

Atwater made it — in his 16th year of eligibility, no less. — and became the first home-grown Broncos defender to join the hall. (An honor many in Denver believe should belong to Orange Crush linebacker Randy Gradishar.)

Atwater said when he got the much-anticipated knock on his hotel door "it was pretty obvious it wasn't the maid so I was pretty excited. I'm extremely honored to go in with all these men."

A two-time All-Pro who won two Super Bowls, Atwater prowled the backfield and delivered vicious hits to anyone coming across. One irony of Atwater's late-recognized greatness is that many of his whiplash-inducing hits would be illegal in today's NFL.

Though receivers were mostly at risk, it was his shoulder-to-shoulder disintegration of 250-pound Chiefs running back Christian Okyoe, "The Nigerian Nightmare," while mic'd up on "Monday Night Football" in 1990 that truly put Atwater on the map.

James was a bastion of versatility and durability. A flashy first-round draft pick out of Miami, James made a name for himself with his ability to carve out room on the ground while playing in Peyton Manning's offense with the Colts from 1999-2005.

James also played three seasons with the Cardinals and a half-year with the Seahawks.

"Started With Gold Teeth, Ended With a Gold Jacket," James posted on social media after receiving the word.

James finished with more than 3,300 yards receiving and more than 12,000 yards rushing. He won the NFL rushing title in 1999 and 2000, no small thing given Manning was revving up his career at the time. James joins Colts wideout Marvin Harrison in the hall, which will give Manning more company next year when he'll be a shoo-in to join them on his first ballot.

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Bruce was a headliner in "The Greatest Show on Turf," the pass-happy attack run by Hall of Fame quarterback Kurt Warner when the Rams were in St. Louis. This was Bruce's sixth season of eligibility and his fourth time as a finalist.

His 15,208 yards receiving over 16 seasons were second in the NFL record book when he retired in 2009. But he was never selected an AP All-Pro, and some critics dismissed his stats as being more a sign of his longevity and the passing era he played in than any mark of true greatness.

No matter. He was elated. "St. Louis, we headed to Canton!" he tweeted.

There were no seniors announced Saturday, as they were folded into the centennial class. Others going in with that class, which was announced last month: Harold Carmichael, Alex Karras, Jim Covert, Bobby Dillon, Cliff Harris, Winston Hill, Duke Slater, Mac Speedie, Ed Sprinkle, along with coaches Jimmy Johnson, NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, the late NFL Films exec Steve Sabol and longtime GM George Young.

AP Pro Football Writer Rob Maaddi contributed to this report.

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

## Amy Klobuchar helped jail teen for life, but case was flawed

By ROBIN McDOWELL Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — It was a prime-time moment for Amy Klobuchar.

Standing in the glare of television lights at a Democratic presidential debate last fall, she was asked about her years as a top Minnesota prosecutor and allegations she was not committed to racial justice.

"That's not my record," she said, staring into the camera.

Yes, she was tough on crime, Klobuchar said, but the African American community was angry about losing kids to gun violence. And she responded.

She told a story that she has cited throughout her political career, including during her 2006 campaign for the U.S. Senate: An 11-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while doing homework at her dining room table in 2002. And Klobuchar's office put Tyesha Edwards' killer -- a black teen -- behind bars for life.

But what if Myon Burrell is innocent?

An Associated Press investigation into the 17-year-old case uncovered new evidence and myriad inconsistencies, raising questions about whether he was railroaded by police.

This story was produced in collaboration with American Public Media.

The AP reviewed more than a thousand pages of police records, court transcripts and interrogation tapes, and interviewed dozens of inmates, witnesses, family members, former gang leaders, lawyers and criminal justice experts.

The case relied heavily on a teen rival of Burrell's who gave conflicting accounts when identifying the shooter, who was largely obscured behind a wall 120 feet away.

With no other eyewitnesses, police turned to multiple jailhouse snitches. Some have since recanted, saying they were coached or coerced. Others were given reduced time, raising questions about their credibility. And the lead homicide detective offered "major dollars" for names, even if it was hearsay.

There was no gun, fingerprints, or DNA. Alibis were never seriously pursued. Key evidence has gone missing or was never obtained, including a convenience store surveillance tape that Burrell and others say would have cleared him.

Burrell, now 33, has maintained his innocence, rejecting all plea deals.

His co-defendants, meanwhile, have admitted their part in Tyesha's death. Burrell, they say, was not even there.

For years, one of them -- Ike Tyson -- has insisted he was actually the triggerman. Police and prosecu-

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tors refused to believe him, pointing to the contradictory accounts in the early days of the investigation. Now, he swears he was just trying to get the police off his back.

"I already shot an innocent girl," said Tyson, who is serving a 45-year sentence. "Now an innocent guy -- at the time he was a kid -- is locked up for something he didn't do. So, it's like I'm carrying two burdens."

Asked for comment on the case, a Klobuchar campaign spokesperson said Burrell was tried and convicted of Tyasha's murder twice, and the second trial occurred when Klobuchar was no longer the Hennepin County Attorney. If there was new evidence, she said, it should be immediately reviewed by the court.

Questions about the case come at a difficult time, as Klobuchar and other presidential hopefuls, including Joe Biden and Michael Bloomberg, face scrutiny for their records on racial justice in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Black and brown communities were being decimated by the war on drugs, and the since-discredited "super-predator" theory prevailed, predicting that droves of poor, fatherless young men devoid of moral conscience would wreak havoc in their neighborhoods.

Democrats joined Republicans in supporting harsher policing and tougher sentencing, leading to the highest incarceration rates in the nation's history.

Some politicians have tried to distance themselves from the period's perceived excesses. In January, for instance, Klobuchar returned a \$1,000 campaign donation from Linda Fairstein, who prosecuted New York's infamous Central Park Five, four black teens and one Hispanic who were later exonerated in the rape of a white jogger in 1989.

While campaigning to be the top prosecutor in Minnesota's most populous county in 1998, Klobuchar advocated for harsher penalties for juvenile offenders.

In Minnesota, allegations of gang affiliation or motive played on the fears of mostly white jurors and led to harsher sentences.

"If you were young and black, and your case was tied to gangs or drugs, it was an especially scary time," said Mary Moriarty, a public defender in Minnesota's Hennepin County for nearly three decades. "I do firmly believe that there were people convicted of crimes that they did not do."

She said that the murder Burrell went down for was problematic from the start.

"In the case of Myon Burrell -- where you had a really high-profile shooting of an innocent girl and you put a lot of pressure on the system to get someone to be responsible for that -- I think a lot of corners were probably cut."

In Minneapolis, soaring homicides had briefly earned the city the grim nickname "Murderapolis." By the time Klobuchar took office in 1999, crime rates had started to drop. But tensions remained high. Tyasha's death set off an uproar.

Police pulled out all stops, deploying more than 40 officers and gang task force members.

Despite the lack of physical evidence, they all but wrapped up their case against Burrell in four days.

Ike Tyson, 21, and Hans Williams, 23, were easy. Several people saw them roll by in their car minutes before the attack, and a 911 tip from one of their girlfriends helped seal the deal.

Burrell, then 16, was arrested only after a tip from an often-used jailhouse informant. During his lengthy legal process, Burrell hired and fired six attorneys as they failed to cross-examine witnesses, pursue alibis or challenge glaring irregularities in the investigation.

In the end, his sentence stuck: Natural life in prison.

The Minneapolis police declined to comment for this story. Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman's office said it's confident the correct person was convicted but it's always open to reviewing new evidence.

Assistant County Attorney Jean Burdorf, the only prosecutor left who was directly involved in the case, insists that Burrell received justice. "I'll tell you what I've told a lot of people over the years. I have a lot of confidence in Minnesota's justice system," she said.

"Certainly, he's been through the court process, and his conviction has remained intact."

For years, many caught up in Burrell's case have insisted police got the wrong person. Some say they



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initially lied to protect themselves or their friends. Others say they told police what they wanted to hear to get deals on their own sentences or to punish a rival.

Even though some have changed their stories more than once, they insist they are now telling the truth because they have nothing to gain.

Burrell's co-defendants were members of the Tyson Mob and the Vice Lords. They say drugs and guns were a way of life in their rough neighborhood. But the shooting wasn't gang warfare as police claimed, they insisted -- it was personal.

Tyson said he and Williams were driving in south Minneapolis when they spotted a group of guys hanging out. Among them was 17-year-old Timmy Oliver, a member of the rival Gangster Disciples, who had menacingly waved a gun at them weeks earlier.

The pair slowed down, scowled at Oliver, then continued on. They picked up an unidentified acquaintance, got a gun and headed back. Tyson said it was his idea, and the intention was to scare Oliver, not to kill him.

The three parked a block away, with Williams waiting in the driver's seat for a quick getaway. Tyson and the third man jumped out, cutting through an alley and ducking between houses. Shielded by a wall, Tyson said he could clearly see Oliver standing in the yard across the street with his back turned.

He said he fired off eight rounds, the last few as he was running backward toward the car. It wasn't until later that evening that he learned one of his bullets killed Tyesha in the house next door.

"There was only one weapon, one set of shells," said Tyson. "I'm the one that did this. I did this."

Soon after the shooting, he was telling friends, his attorney, fellow inmates and even a prison guard that Burrell was not at the scene, court records show. But he said his lawyer told him he'd never see the outside of a prison unless he implicated the youth. Eventually he buckled, but only after being promised his plea would not be used against Burrell.

Tyson doesn't want to name the other man who was with him, saying he doesn't want to pull in a person who was only peripherally involved.

The getaway driver, Hans Williams, did identify a third man -- by his full name and in a photo lineup. Police initially said they didn't want to "muddy up the case" with an unverified name, later that they didn't believe him. They made no real effort to follow up. After getting a denial from the suspect in 2005, the chief homicide detective "permanently checked" out their recorded conversation and gave it to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office. It has since gone missing.

The gun was never recovered and officers said prints on the magazine and the car were not sufficient for identification. Ballistic tests on Tyson's jacket were not carried out to verify claims that he was the triggerman.

The killing of Tyesha Edwards topped television news that night.

That's how a prison inmate first heard about it. Desperate to get money or time cut off his own sentence, he quickly reached out to Oliver, a friend and fellow gang member. Minutes later, the often-used informant gave the cops Burrell's name, helping steer their investigation, the AP found.

Oliver, who had his own troubles with the law, didn't go to police that day, as he promised. He said one of the bullets had pierced his pants, so he threw them away and went to buy a new pair.

But three days later, he was picked up by officers following another, unrelated shooting. Police now had their sole eyewitness in custody, interviewing him for more than eight hours. Though mandated by law, the interrogation was never recorded. Police later said they "made a mistake."

Well after midnight, Oliver signed a statement saying he saw Burrell standing across the street in an open lot between two houses, shooting until he emptied his weapon. Later, Oliver's story would change. He said his diminutive, 5-foot-3 rival was firing from behind a 5-foot wall, 120 feet away, but that his hooded face was still clearly recognizable.

Oliver's best friend, Antoine Williams, said when the gunfire stopped, he ran to his side.

"I asked Timmy at the time, 'Who, who did the shooting?'" Antoine Williams recalled in a recorded interview with a private investigator hired by one of Burrell's attorneys. "He said, 'I couldn't see where it was coming from.'"

He later asked Oliver -- who died in a shooting in 2003 -- why he lied to police.

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Oliver told him, "They threatened him, kinda put it like, 'It was your fault because you were there. You were the intended target,'" Antoine Williams said.

With a new trial date approaching and their key witness, Oliver, gone to the grave, the police turned to informants in the jails and prisons. Some were offered generous sentence reductions, cash and other deals for those willing to come forward with a story about what happened in the shooting, even if it wasn't true, inmates said.

There were at least seven jailhouse informants, two of whom had coughed up information in more than a dozen other cases. Another went by 29 different aliases.

Terry Arrington, a member of a rival gang, was among those who talked.

He said he was approached by four officers and the prosecutor at a federal correctional facility where he faced 19 years in prison and was told he could knock that down to three if he was willing to cooperate.

He said he knew nothing about the case: "They basically brought me through what to say. Before I went before the grand jury, they brought me in a room and said ... 'When you get in, hit on this, hit on this.' I was still young and I had fresh kids that I was trying to get home to, so I did what they asked."

He got his deal, but now lives with that burden.

"Like, I don't wish jail on nobody," he said, now back in prison at Rush City correctional facility on other charges. "Even though we was enemies ... that's still a man ... So it really bothers me right now."

He says at least three other men who were locked up with him in the same unit also cut deals with police. One other has recanted.

As far as Arrington knows, "everybody told a lie to get time cut."

Like many young black men in his neighborhood, Burrell's distrust of police came early. He was 12 when a drug addict drew a switchblade, slashing his sister in the hand and drawing blood. His mom called the police, but they assumed the boy was the assailant, threw him up against a sharp fence before hauling him to the station in cuffs. Only then did they realize they had the wrong person.

Soon after, he was caught selling drugs and hanging out with the wrong crowd. Worried he might end up in jail, like his dad and oldest brother, his mother packed up the family and moved to Bemidji, a small city 3 1/2 hours away. But the 13-year-old struggled to fit in and found himself coming back to the Twin Cities often.

In 2002, the family traveled to Minneapolis to spend Thanksgiving with his grandmother.

Less than 24 hours later, Tyesha was dead and police were desperate to find her killer.

They decided early on it was Burrell, though he had not had any serious brushes with the law.

In a video taken by police hours before his arrest, chief homicide detective Richard Zimmerman is seen talking to a man brought to the station following another shooting. The officer says he is ready to pay "major dollars" for information about Tyesha's murder -- even if it's just street chatter.

"Hearsay is still worth something to me," Zimmerman tells the man, offering \$500 a name. "Sometimes ... you get hearsay here, hearsay there. Sometimes it's like a jigsaw puzzle, things come together, you know what I mean?"

The man gave up three names, but Zimmerman paid for just one: Burrell's.

The afternoon of the shooting, Burrell said, he was playing video games with a group at his friend's house. Hungry, they decided to walk to Portland Market on 38th Street. When they didn't see anything they liked, they continued on to Cup Foods, just a few hundred yards from Tyesha's house.

During his nearly three-hour interrogation, Burrell identified two people he saw at Cup Foods -- Latosha Evans and his friend, Donnell Jones.

Police never followed up. But Evans and Jones told the AP they were with Burrell at Cup Foods, either as shots were fired or immediately after, when sirens were blaring.

Though the store itself was under police surveillance because of allegations of drug dealing and weapons sales, it appears officers never recovered video surveillance tapes.

Evans remembers worrying that Burrell would get caught up in a police sweep and told him he better

leave.

"I'd hate to you get blamed for this," she remembers telling him. "I hugged him and he went his way."

Burrell was picked up four days later. He was not in a gang database, and had never been tied to a serious crime.

During the interrogation, he never asked for an attorney, but he did ask for his mother 13 times. Each time he was told, "no, not now," though she was in a room next door.

A police officer told him that he was a huge disappointment to his mother, and that she had told officers she thought he was capable of the shooting.

"Are you kidding?" Burrell responded. "That's a lie. ... That's not truthful. ... I don't believe that."

Meanwhile, officers told his mother, falsely, that they had several eyewitnesses saying Burrell was the one and only shooter. Sinking into tears, she asked again and again to see him. "Not yet," they said.

One month later, the day before Burrell's indictment, his mother was driving back to Bemidji after a prison visit. She swerved off the road, crashing into a tree. The car burst into flames, killing her.

Klobuchar denied Burrell's request to go to his mother's funeral. He was, she said, a threat to society.

Burrell has spent most of his life in prison. He says he believes authorities knew that he was innocent all along: "They just didn't feel like my life was worth living."

If he had told police he was there, but had been an unwilling participant, as officers seemed to want, his nightmare might have been over by now. But he says he wants justice not just for himself, but for Tyesha. He could never admit to a crime he didn't commit, he says.

"That's something I struggle with to this day, you know. I coulda been home," said Burrell. "At least I can look in the mirror and I can still be proud of who I see looking back."

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Associated Press writer Margie Mason contributed to this report.

## Jury foreman regrets convicting teen in girl's 2002 death

By **MICHAEL REZENDES** and **ROBIN McDOWELL** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Citing a recent Associated Press investigation, the foreman of the jury that sent a Minnesota teen away for life in the 2002 death of an 11-year-old girl said Friday he regrets voting to convict.

"I do feel badly," jury foreman Joe McLean told the AP. "I feel, for lack of a better word, that we were misled."

"Maybe we should have taken more time," he added. "Maybe we should have said we couldn't decide."

No gun, fingerprints or DNA were ever recovered, and the 2003 trial of Myon Burrell centered on the testimony of one teen rival who offered conflicting stories when identifying the triggerman, who was standing 120 feet away, mostly behind a wall.

McLean said he and other jurors did the best they could with the evidence presented and were unaware of information turned up in the AP review of the case -- in part because his co-defendants were not allowed to take the stand. Both have since said Burrell was not even on the scene. One of them, Ike Tyson, admits to being the shooter.

"Now there are statements from Ike Tyson saying he did the shooting. We didn't have that then," McLean said.

Meanwhile, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who led the Hennepin County Attorney's office at the time Tyesha Edward was felled by a stray bullet, was asked about the case while campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination in New Hampshire. She has cited the case repeatedly during her political career, including during her 2006 campaign for the U.S. Senate, and more recently in a Democratic candidates' debate.

"If there is new evidence," Klobuchar told New Hampshire Public Radio, "this should be reviewed immediately because the job of the prosecutor is to convict the guilty and protect the innocent."

Burrell was tried and convicted of Tyesha's murder twice, and the second trial occurred when Klobuchar was no longer the Hennepin County attorney. McLean was the foreman in the first trial.

In his interview with the AP, McLean recalled the trial and said Burrell's defense attorney seemed inex-



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perienced and unable to mount an aggressive defense.

"He was in the deep end and the judge was throwing him bricks," McLean said. "I thought that from the get-go this kid's not got a decent attorney."

Paul Fedor, a juror who held out against a guilty verdict longer than any of the others, told AP there were many aspects of the trial that troubled him.

Although jurors never visited the scene of the shooting, he said, he found it difficult to believe that Burrell, who is 5-foot-3, could have fired a handgun over a 5-foot wall, as prosecutors claimed.

But Fedor said he finally "collapsed."

"I held as long as I could," he said. "It's weird. You think you can do it, you can hold on, but you've never been in that situation."

After the verdict was read, Fedor addressed reporters and said he felt pressured to convict.

McLean said that after jurors agreed on a verdict, he went into a jury restroom and vomited.

"He was a 16-year-old boy and I was a pretty newly minted dad at that time," he said. "Based on our conviction, there was a real possibility that he was going to go to jail for the rest of his life. I was struck by the gravity of that."

McLean's comments followed a Wednesday rally of community activists at the Government Center in downtown Minneapolis where they demanded Klobuchar join with police and prosecutors to re-examine the case, in light of the AP's findings.

The AP examined thousands of pages of court documents and archival video that showed police investigators offered cash to potential witnesses in exchange for information. In addition, they relied on the testimony of jail house snitches who received reduced sentences in exchange, and later recanted their testimony.

At the end of the interview, McLean asked an AP reporter to deliver a message to Burrell: "Tell him that I'm sorry," he said. "I tried to do my best. I kind of think in retrospect I failed."

Robin McDowell reported from Minneapolis.

## China death toll reaches 259; WHO warns countries to prepare

By JOE McDONALD and SAM McNEIL Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's death toll from a new virus rose to 259 on Saturday and a World Health Organization official said other governments need to prepare for "domestic outbreak control" if the disease spreads in their countries.

Beijing criticized Washington's order barring entry to most foreigners who visited China in the past two weeks.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced similar measures Saturday, following Japan and Singapore.

South Korea and India flew hundreds of their citizens out of Wuhan, the city at the center of an area where some 50 million people are prevented from leaving in a sweeping anti-virus effort. The evacuees went into a two-week quarantine. Indonesia also sent a plane.

The number of confirmed cases in China rose to 11,791, surpassing the number in the 2002-03 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome. The virus' rapid spread in two months prompted the World Health Organization on Thursday to declare it a global emergency.

That declaration "flipped the switch" from a cautious attitude to recommending governments prepare for the possibility the virus might spread, said the WHO representative in Beijing, Gauden Galea. Most cases reported so far have been people who visited China or their family members.

The agency acted out of concern for poorer countries that might not be equipped to respond, said Galea. Such a declaration calls for a coordinated international response and can bring more money and resources.

WHO said it was especially concerned that some cases abroad involved human-to-human transmission. "Countries need to get ready for possible importation in order to identify cases as early as possible and

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in order to be ready for a domestic outbreak control, if that happens," Galea told The Associated Press.

On Friday, the United States declared a public health emergency and President Donald Trump signed an order barring entry to foreign nationals who visited China within the last 14 days, which scientists say is the virus' longest incubation period. The restrictions don't apply to immediate family of American citizens and permanent residents.

China criticized the U.S. controls and "unfriendly comments" that Beijing was failing to cooperate.

"Just as the WHO recommended against travel restrictions, the U.S. rushed to go in the opposite way. Certainly not a gesture of goodwill," said foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying.

WHO Secretary-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that despite the emergency declaration, there is "no reason for measures that unnecessarily interfere with international travel and trade."

Meanwhile, iPhone-maker Apple announced Saturday that it was closing all of its 42 stores as well as its corporate offices in mainland China, one of its largest markets, until Feb. 9.

The ruling Communist Party postponed the end of the Lunar New Year holiday in Hubei province, where Wuhan is located, for an unspecified "appropriate extent" and appealed to people there to stay home.

Another locked-down city in Hubei, Huanggang, on Saturday banned almost all residents from leaving their homes in the most stringent controls imposed yet. The government said only one person from each household would be allowed out to shop for food once every two days.

"Others are not allowed to go out except for medical treatment, to do epidemic prevention and control work or to work in supermarkets and pharmacies," it said in an announcement.

China's anti-disease controls started with the Jan. 23 suspension of plane, bus and train links to Wuhan, an industrial center of 11 million people. The lockdown has spread to surrounding cities.

The holiday, China's busiest annual travel season, ends Sunday in the rest of the country following a three-day extension to postpone the return to factories and offices by hundreds of millions of workers. The official Xinhua News Agency said people in Hubei who work outside the province also were given an extended holiday.

The party decision "highlighted the importance of prevention and control of the epidemic among travelers," Xinhua said.

Beginning Sunday, the United States will direct flights from China to seven major airports where passengers can be screened. Those returning from Hubei province will be subject to a 14-day quarantine. On Saturday, Defense Secretary Mark Esper approved a request from the Department of Health and Human Services for the possible use of military facilities to accommodate 1,000 people who may have to be quarantined upon arrival from overseas.

American Airlines, British Airways, Finnair and Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific have canceled or cut back service to mainland China. Vietnam suspended all flights to China. Delta Air Lines said Saturday that it was accelerating plans to suspend its flights between the U.S. and China, with the last flight from China now leaving Sunday.

The U.S. order followed a travel advisory for Americans to consider leaving China. Japan and Germany also advised against nonessential travel to China. Britain did as well, except for Hong Kong and Macao.

Countries including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Turkey all evacuated some citizens from China on Saturday. The Kremlin said Russia would use its air force planes starting Saturday for evacuations.

Germany's defense minister said a plane carrying 128 passengers, most of them German citizens, was refused permission to land and refuel in Moscow due to what the Russians said was lack of capacity. The military transport plane had to divert to Helsinki before it landed in Frankfurt. None of the people aboard was suspected of infection but they all will be quarantined at a military base for two weeks as a precaution, according to the German Foreign Ministry.

At least 24 countries have reported cases since China informed WHO about the new virus in late December.

Australia, Germany, Japan, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Vietnam all reported new cases Saturday. Spain confirmed its first case — a German man who had close contact with

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an infected person in Germany and then traveled to the Canary Islands with friends. Four friends who were hospitalized with him have not shown symptoms.

Both the new virus and SARS are from the coronavirus family, which also includes those that cause the common cold.

The death rate in China is falling, but the number of confirmed cases will keep growing because thousands of specimens from suspected cases have yet to be tested, WHO's Galea said.

"The case fatality ratio is settling out at a much lower level than we were reporting three, now four, weeks ago," he said.

Although scientists expect to see limited transmission of the virus between people with family or other close contact, they are concerned about cases of infection spreading to people who might have less exposure.

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Associated Press writers Aniruddha Ghosal in New Delhi, Tong-hyung Kim in Seoul, South Korea, Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo, Hau Dinh in Hanoi, Vietnam, Niniek Karmini in Jakarta, Indonesia, and Bharatha Mal-lawarachi in Colombo, Sri Lanka, contributed to this report.

## Apple temporarily closes stores in China amid virus outbreak

**Associated Press undefined**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple is temporarily closing its 42 stores in mainland China, one of its largest markets, as a new virus spreads rapidly and the death toll there rose to 259 on Saturday.

The iPhone maker said in a statement it was closing stores, corporate offices and contact centers in China until Feb. 9 "out of an abundance of caution and based on the latest advice from leading health experts."

"Our thoughts are with the people most immediately affected by the coronavirus and with those working around the clock to study and contain it," the statement said.

Apple's online store will remain open.

China is the company's third biggest market in terms of sales behind the United States and Europe and it is also where most iPhones and other devices are made. CEO Tim Cook told analysts on Tuesday that uncertainty due to the outbreak was keeping the Cupertino, California-based company from offering more specific guidance about its financial performance in the coming months after announcing results for the holiday shopping season that were far better than investors anticipated.

That performance propelled Apple's stock price to new highs earlier this week, but the escalating uncertainty about the situation in China quickly dampened spirits. Apple shares dropped 4% Friday to finish at \$309.51.

In a Saturday note, Wedbush Securities analyst Daniel Ives predicted the store closures will have a "negligible" impact on Apple, largely because consumers in mainland China will still be able to buy iPhones and other products through online channels. Even if the shutdown of the brick-and-mortar stores extends throughout the entire month of February, Ives predicted it would lower only lower Apple's annual iPhone sales in that region by about 3%. Apple doesn't disclose how many iPhones it sells in China, but the company generated nearly \$44 billion in revenue from the country in its last fiscal year.

Cook also said the company's contractors in China have been forced to delay reopening factories that closed for the Lunar New Year holiday.

Cook said the company was looking for ways to minimize supply disruptions. Some of its suppliers are in Hubei, the Chinese province at the center of the outbreak that's been under lockdown for more than a week.

## Iraqi blocs select new PM-designate after weeks of jockeying

**By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Former communications minister Mohammed Allawi was named prime minister-



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designate by rival Iraqi factions Saturday after weeks of political deadlock.

The choice comes as the country weathers troubled times, including ongoing anti-government protests and the constant threat of being ensnared by festering U.S.-Iran tensions.

The selection of Allawi, 66, to replace outgoing Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi was the product of many back-room talks over months between rival parties.

In Tahrir Square, the epicenter of Iraq's four-month anti-government protest movement, demonstrators rejected Allawi's candidacy. Demonstrators, who have long said they would not accept a candidate chosen by the establishment, erected portraits of the new premier-designate crossed with an "X." Some chanted "Allawi out!"

But many feared they would clash with followers of influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who recently reversed a decision to withdraw support from the protest movement. Officials and analysts said that move was to gain leverage on the street as a deadline to select a new premier drew near.

At least three activists said followers of al-Sadr had attacked demonstrators in Tahrir. Some protesters and others were fearful.

"The square doesn't want him, but the problem is since Muqtada has sided with (the elites), the square cannot refuse him," said activist Kamal Jaban. "Otherwise there will be bloodshed."

Al-Sadr's followers returned in the hundreds on Friday night, three witnesses said, bringing tents and supplies and re-occupying a strategic high-rise overlooking the square known as the Turkish Restaurant, as well as the Jumhuriya Bridge, which leads to the Green Zone.

Al-Sadr issued a statement saying Allawi's selection was "the wish of the people," and asked protesters to carry on with the anti-government demonstrations.

If elected by parliament, Allawi will have to contend with navigating Iraq through regional confrontations between Tehran and Washington. Tensions skyrocketed after a U.S. drone strike near Baghdad's airport killed top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani and senior Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. That event brought Iraq close to the brink of war and officials scrambling to contain the fallout.

He will also have to grapple with an unprecedented popular uprising in Baghdad and Iraq's south in which at least 500 people have been killed under fire from security forces.

In a speech late Saturday, Allawi addressed the nation and said he would hold responsible those guilty of using force against peaceful demonstrators, create an advisory team that included protesters and would prepare for early elections.

In a prerecorded statement earlier, Allawi called on protesters to continue with their uprising against corruption and said he would quit if parliamentary blocs insist on imposing names of ministerial appointees.

"I have faith in you and ask you to continue with the protests," he said.

On Wednesday, President Barham Saleh gave parliamentary blocs until Feb. 1 to select a premier candidate, or said he would exercise his constitutional powers and choose one himself.

Allawi was born in Baghdad and served as communications minister first in 2006 and again between 2010-2012. He resigned from his post after a dispute with former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Parliament is expected to put his candidacy to a vote in the next session once a formal letter declaring Allawi as a nominee from the president is submitted, after which he has 30 days to formulate a government program and select a Cabinet.

According to the constitution, a replacement for Abdul-Mahdi should have been identified 15 days after his resignation in early December under pressure from the protest movement. Instead, it has taken rival blocs nearly two months of jockeying to select Allawi as their consensus candidate.

Abdul-Mahdi's rise to power was the product of a provisional alliance between parliament's two main blocs — Sairoon, led by Muqtada al-Sadr, and Fatah, which includes leaders associated with the paramilitary Popular Mobilization Units headed by Hadi al-Amiri.

In the May 2018 election, neither coalition won a commanding plurality that would have enabled it to name the premier, as stipulated by the Iraqi constitution. To avoid political crisis, Sairoon and Fatah forged a precarious union with Abdul-Mahdi as their prime minister.

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Until Allawi's selection, al-Sadr had rejected the candidates put forward largely by Fatah, officials and analysts said, during a tumultuous two weeks. The radical cleric held an anti-U.S. rally attended by tens of thousands and withdrew support for Iraq's mass anti-government protest movement, only to reverse the decision later.

The presence of U.S. troops on Iraqi soil has become the focus of Iraqi politics in the wake of the strike. Parliament passed a non-binding resolution for their ouster and Abdul-Mahdi had openly supported withdrawal.

The United Nations special envoy to Iraq, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert urged the premier-designate to push ahead with a reform agenda.

"The prime minister-designate faces a monumental task: rapid Cabinet formation and parliamentary confirmation to press ahead with meaningful reforms addressing popular demands, delivering justice and accountability," she said in a UN statement.

Protesters in Baghdad and southern Iraq have been calling for new executive leadership, snap elections and electoral reforms.

## Emails show the fallout from Trump's claims about Dorian

By LYNN BERRY and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A flurry of newly released emails from scientists and top officials at the federal agency responsible for weather forecasting clearly illustrates the consternation and outright alarm caused by President Donald Trump's false claim that Hurricane Dorian could hit Alabama.

A top National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration official even called the president's behavior "crazy."

What the scientists and officials found even more troubling was a statement later issued by an unnamed NOAA spokesman that supported Trump's claim and repudiated the agency's own forecasters.

The emails, released late Friday in response to Freedom of Information Act requests from The Associated Press and others, give an inside picture of the scramble to respond to the president and the turmoil it caused inside the federal agency.

"What's next? Climate science is a hoax?" Craig McLean, NOAA's acting chief scientist, wrote in an email sent to the agency's top officials. "Flabbergasted to leave our forecasters hanging in the political wind."

In a more formal letter, McLean wrote that what concerned him most was that the Trump administration "is eroding the public trust in NOAA for an apparent political recovery from an ill timed and imprecise comment from the President."

As Dorian headed for the southeastern U.S. in early September, Trump tweeted that Alabama was "most likely to be hit (much) harder than anticipated." The National Weather Service in Birmingham corrected him, tweeting that "Alabama will NOT see any impacts from #Dorian."

But Trump remained adamant, and NOAA came to his defense with the unsigned statement, which claimed some data provided to the president had indicated that Alabama could be hit by the hurricane and scolded the Birmingham office. The statement was issued after the White House and Commerce Department intervened, the AP and others reported at the time.

It provoked angry emails from within the agency and from the public.

Gary Shigenaka, a NOAA scientist, wrote to the agency's acting administrator, Neil Jacobs, asking him to "reassure those of us who serve the public ... that we are not mere pawns in an absurd game."

In response, Jacobs defended the forecasters and said, "You have no idea how hard I'm fighting to keep politics out of science."

The whole incident is perhaps best remembered for what became known as Sharpie-gate. In defending himself in the Oval Office, Trump displayed an NOAA map that was altered using a black marker to extend the hurricane's projected path.

"Apparently the President is convinced that Alabama was in the path of Dorian and someone altered a NOAA map (with a sharpie) to convince folks," NOAA official Makeda Okolo wrote in an email to chief operating officer Benjamin Friedman and others.

Friedman replied: "Yep, crazy."

Colvin reported from West Palm Beach, Florida.

## 'Zombie' campaigns could pick up support in Iowa caucuses

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

FORT MADISON, Iowa (AP) — The Iowa caucuses could feature an attack of the "zombie" candidates. As some Democrats prepare for Monday's contest, they say they're planning to side with candidates who have been out of the race for weeks, even months. By caucusing for Sens. Kamala Harris of California and Cory Booker of New Jersey, voters say they want to establish a record that those who bowed out early did indeed have supporters.

"I really still feel that for me, Cory Booker's the right person to be the president," said Bryce Smith, the Dallas County Democratic Party chairman who had endorsed Booker and was organizing for him in his precinct. "I think it sends a clear message that Cory was important in this race."

Such tactics reflect the unique and complicated nature of the caucuses.

In a primary, voters simply choose their preferred candidate. Caucuses require strangers and neighbors to spend a winter evening in high school gyms or community centers. Participants first line up for their favored candidate. If that candidate doesn't receive more than 15% of the vote in the room, the candidate is eliminated and supporters can align with one of the remaining White House hopefuls.

The results are counted again. Delegates are awarded based on that final number.

The caucuses have an added twist this year because the Iowa Democratic Party will release more data than ever. While the party previously only released information on delegates, it will now report the first round of voting, the second vote "realignment" and the final delegate count.

The Associated Press will base its race call of the winner on state delegate equivalents because delegates are the measure used to decide the eventual winner of the nomination. But the new information is causing some voters to take their first round choices more seriously because those decisions will now be public.

Ruby Bodeker said she and her 17-year-old daughter both plan to caucus for Harris during the first round.

"This is her first caucus," Bodeker said of her daughter. "She was devastated when Kamala Harris dropped out. As a member of the LBGQTQ+ community she feels there is no one left who speaks to her."

Caucusgoers can theoretically support whomever they like on the first round, so any of the other candidates who have dropped out could receive votes as well.

Some voters said they'll caucus for a former candidate to eat into whatever advantage Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders hopes to build during the initial round of voting. Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, and his team have said they want to win each category of voting, but have placed special emphasis on the first round.

Helen Grunewald, a 69-year-old retired community college teacher who will serve as her precinct caucus chairwoman in Blairstown, said after Harris quit the race, she couldn't find any other candidates that she cared about. The only candidate who drew her passion was Sanders, who she opposes.

"Since I didn't feel strongly about any of the candidates, and the only one I feel strongly about is the one I don't want to get it, figured the thing to do is to stick with Kamala," she said.

Grunewald doesn't expect Harris to win the 15% support she'd need to be viable on the first alignment, so she plans to support whichever candidate looks the strongest against Sanders on the second alignment.

Smith, the county chairman, also expressed concerns about Sanders' strength in the race, as did Gary Dickey, a Des Moines-area lawyer and former aide to former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, who endorsed Booker. Dickey tweeted he plans to caucus for Booker on the first alignment and said he's heard from numerous people in response that are considering doing the same thing.

He and his wife like former South Bend, Indiana, mayor Pete Buttigieg, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and former Vice President Joe Biden and said they will support whichever one is stronger against Sanders on the second alignment.



"We are both very concerned that if Bernie Sanders were to win Iowa and New Hampshire and get some momentum, we don't think that's good for the party, and we don't think it'd be good for Democrats in a general election," he said. "I worry that an admitted democratic socialist creates headwinds that would make the general election unnecessarily difficult."

## Stoneman Douglas players take part in Super Bowl rehearsal

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — The dress rehearsal for the Super Bowl is incredibly elaborate, and the NFL needed some football players to help ensure everything on Sunday will go according to plan.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas, welcome to the Super Bowl.

About 50 players from the high school in Parkland, Florida — the place where 17 students, teachers and staff were killed in a massacre on Feb. 14, 2018 — got to take the field at Hard Rock Stadium on Friday afternoon for a few hours, pretending to be members of the Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers.

They ran some plays to help television crews work on their camera angles, went through a walkthrough of the pregame coin toss with referee Bill Vinovich, even lined up just as the Chiefs and 49ers will for "The Star-Spangled Banner" — and some of them even got a quick meet-and-greet with anthem singer Demi Lovato afterward.

"They basically split us up, one side was the Chiefs and the other side was the 49ers," Stoneman Douglas coach Quentin Short said. "The smiles I saw on these kids' faces, the excitement of running out of the tunnels just like the teams will, they were having a blast, man. To be on the actual field the Super Bowl is going to be played on, it was awesome."

The NFL has used high school players as stand-ins at the Super Bowl rehearsals for some time. And when it came time to extend a team an invitation this year, organizers apparently knew which school to ask. The Miami Dolphins said Fox, which is airing the game, made the final call.

"The Dolphins and the NFL and Fox reached out to us," Short told The Associated Press. "They asked us if we'd be interested and obviously I said, 'Heck, yeah.' There was no way we were turning down this opportunity."

Stoneman Douglas has received plenty of support from the South Florida sports community since the shootings two years ago. The Miami Heat sent players and coaches to meet with students and other NBA teams have made similar gestures, the Miami Marlins invited the school's baseball team to play at Marlins Park, the Dolphins have given money and hosted clinics for players and the Florida Panthers brought the school's hockey team onto the ice to meet a surprise guest — the Stanley Cup.

Stoneman Douglas quarterback Matthew O'Dowd said he understood the significance of getting the chance to be part of the show on the field where 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo and Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes will meet on Sunday.

"It's a great experience for the people who get to go and do it," O'Dowd said. "It was amazing, it was fun and it was a great team-bonding thing. We got to go, meet people, hang out with our coaches ... I can't really describe it. It was just great."

Nothing will make up for what happened on Feb. 14, 2018, when the 17, including assistant football coach Aaron Feis, were killed. But experiences like getting an up-close-and-personal look at the Super Bowl certainly help with the healing, if only for a few hours at a time.

"The best part about it was going out on the field and practicing some plays so they could make sure their cameras worked," O'Dowd said.

Short is entering his second season as the head coach at Stoneman Douglas. He replaced Willis May, who stayed with the Eagles for a year after the shooting before taking another job — saying it was simply too hard on him to remain at the school.

The three-story classroom building where the shooting took place is still standing, though it has been permanently closed. There have been several movements suggesting it should be demolished, and likely one day will be, but it remains intact simply because it is evidence and needs to be preserved until the trial

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of the confessed shooter is complete. Prosecutors have said they want jurors, whenever the trial begins, to be able to walk through the building and envision what occurred.

The building can be seen from the football field. The reminders of that day's horror are constant.

"It depends on the person and what your experience was that day and where you are in the recovery process," Short said. "Everybody has gone through so much emotion, so much stuff, trying to handle all of it. Those 17 are always on our mind, and I don't want to say it's normal now because it's not normal. We go back to that scene every single day. That building is still there. The memories are always going to be there."

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

## Polling: Americans dissatisfied with the state of the union

By HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The turbulence of impeachment, a contentious presidential campaign and a global virus health threat confront President Donald Trump as he prepares to deliver his State of the Union address Tuesday night. But one thing about the Trump era has remained remarkably steady: public opinion on the president.

Approval of Trump has stayed persistently in negative territory, and the country is more polarized now than it has been under any other president in recent history. Polls also show Americans express significant dissatisfaction with the direction of the country and even more so with the state of politics.

Even with those downbeat numbers, Americans have largely positive views of both the economy and how Trump is handling it.

A look at public opinion on the president and the state of the union.

### ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Trump is just the third president in U.S. history to be impeached by the House of Representatives. The Republican-controlled Senate, which is conducting the trial, narrowly rejected Democratic demands Friday to summon witnesses, all but ensuring Trump's acquittal. Final voting on his fate is scheduled for Wednesday, on the heels of Trump's prime-time speech the night before.

Impeachment proceedings have closely split the public. In a January poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, slightly more said the Senate should vote to convict Trump and remove him from office than said it should not, 45% to 40%. An additional 14% of those questioned said they did not know enough to have an opinion.

In the survey, 42% of Americans said they thought Trump did something illegal in his July telephone call with the president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, and an additional 32% said he did something unethical.

A slim majority of Republicans, 54%, thought Trump did nothing wrong with Ukraine's leader, but that share declined slightly from 64% in October. Roughly one-third of respondents said they think Trump did something unethical but not illegal, and just about 1 in 10 that he did something illegal.

### THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY IS STRONG

Still, the president has consistently been lifted by Americans' assessment of his handling of the economy, which boasts a low 3.5% unemployment rate and steady job growth. In January, 56% of Americans approved of the Trump's job on the economy, according to an AP-NORC poll. That was higher than the share approving of his handling of trade negotiations, foreign policy or health care.

In the same poll, 67% said they considered the economy to be in good shape, up slightly from 61% who said that in September of 2019, and only about one-quarter expected economic conditions to worsen over the next year.

That relatively bright assessment of the economy even extends to many Democrats. About half of Democrats rate economic conditions positively, and roughly 3 in 10 approve of Trump's handling of the issue.

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## PERVASIVE DISSATISFACTION

Just as Trump will outline his goals for the remainder of his term on Tuesday night, Americans have their own idea of what should be a priority this year. An AP-NORC poll in December found Americans identified in an open-ended question the economy, health care, immigration and the environment as top issues for the government to address in 2020.

Few expected the government to make progress on the issues most important to them.

In the same poll, just about 2 in 10 Americans said they were satisfied with the way things are going in the country today. Nearly 6 in 10 were dissatisfied. Looking ahead, more expected things would get worse, not better.

Republicans were far more likely to express satisfaction with the state of the country, compared with Democrats, 40% to 11%. A slim majority of Republicans, 54%, anticipated improvement over the next year.

Among Democrats, 76% said they were dissatisfied, and 66% expected things to get even worse.

## POLARIZATION

That partisan gap in assessments of the country is even wider in assessments of the president.

Eighty-nine percent of Republicans and just 7% of Democrats approved of Trump on average during the third year of his presidency, according to polling by Gallup. The 82 percentage points separating the two parties in their views of the president was greater than for any other year of any other presidency.

That persistent polarization has led to unusual stability in Trump's approval rating. While approval ebbs and flows from poll to poll, Trump's rating have remained within a roughly 10 percentage point range for three years. Trump's approval rating is unlikely to change with partisans staunchly in their camps. There's not much room for improvement among Republicans, and he's unlikely to gain any support from Democrats.

## REELECTION YEAR PRECEDENT

Other presidents' approval ratings have reached lower levels than Trump's, but Gallup polling shows Trump's averages register lower than the averages of most recent presidents. Over the past three months, approval of Trump averaged about 43%. That's lower than for most other recent presidents over the same time period in their first terms.

Barack Obama is one exception. Over the same period before his reelection bid, average approval was also about 43%. But Obama's approval rating never dipped below 40% in Gallup polling, and Obama saw his rating improve slightly as his reelection approached. While Trump's approval rating has never exceeded 46% in Gallup polling, Obama concluded his first term with an average rating just below 50%.

## **Analysis: GOP sends message that Trump's actions were OK**

**By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans have decided it was OK.

With their expected vote this coming week to acquit President Donald Trump of abusing power and obstructing Congress, GOP senators are giving their express approval to the conduct that landed Trump at the center of the fourth impeachment case in American history. It's the same message that House Republicans sent late last year with their unanimous votes against sending the case to trial.

It's a fitting conclusion for a president who has spent three years testing the boundaries of his office and daring his own party to restrain him as his power and popularity within the GOP grew. It was already clear heading into the impeachment inquiry just how reluctant Republicans were to challenge Trump's impulses. Coming out of the trial it's uncertain whether there is anything he can do in office that would draw more than a passing, rhetorical rebuke from his party.

To Democrats, who initiated the impeachment process in hopes of pulling at least a handful of moderate or retiring GOP lawmakers to their side, Republicans are sending the message that, when it comes to Trump, nothing matters. His grip on the party is complete.

"No," Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, one of the House Democratic impeachment managers, said in a retort to



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Republicans. "Lawlessness matters, abuse of power matters, corruption matters. The Constitution matters."

The reasons are clear for Republican lawmakers' fealty to Trump. When he was a candidate in the 2016 primary, nearly all of them opposed him, often in terms as harsh as Democrats now use. Today, he inspires a loyalty borne of fear and retribution but also of the belief that Republicans' own political fortunes are directly tied to his.

Though that brings with it risk in the November election, most vulnerable Republicans cannot succeed without him.

On the brink of the acquittal vote, some Republican senators insist that doesn't mean they are simply giving Trump a pass. They argue there is more to consider in this moment than a yes or no question on whether Trump violated his oath of office by pushing Ukraine to investigate his Democratic opponents and blocking Congress' ability to investigate the matter.

GOP Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, who is not seeking reelection, called Trump's overtures to Ukraine "inappropriate" and thoroughly proved by House Democrats, but that Trump's actions did not rise to the level of high crimes and misdemeanors. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., went so far as to suggest Trump's actions may have indeed been impeachable, but Rubio argued that removing Trump from office was not the right remedy.

"Just because actions meet a standard of impeachment does not mean it is in the best interest of the country to remove a president from office," Rubio said.

But behind the flickers of disapproval and the sober, carefully parsed statements, the all but certain acquittal vote Wednesday means Republicans are also accepting Trump's behavior and establishing a precedent for the ways in which an American president can wield the power of the office for personal political gain.

Trump has long made clear that he sees few limits to his power. He saw vindication, not flashing warning lights, after special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into his possible obstruction of justice ended without any consequences. Shortly after that inquiry ended, Trump stated that the Constitution gives him "the right to do whatever I want as president." Indeed, his phone call with Ukraine's leader came just a day after Mueller testified before Congress.

At times during the impeachment case, Trump's lawyers echoed those same arguments, most notably when retired Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz said that if a president believes his personal interests are in the national interests, then his actions are not impeachable.

Though Dershowitz later tried to back away from the most expansive interpretations of his remarks, the crux of his argument remained: Trump wasn't out of bounds in seeking a foreign government's assistance for personal political gain, nor would he or a future president be if it happened again.

Democrats entered the impeachment process optimistic that this might be a moment that would weaken Trump's hold on his party. They believed this investigation was different from those that preceded it, including Mueller's, because it was rooted in Trump's own words to Ukraine's president and confirmed in a rough transcript made public by the president, who insisted the phone call was "perfect."

As the impeachment case began, some Republican lawmakers expressed public concern over the president's dealings with Ukraine; even more did so privately.

There were also moments that tested Republicans' loyalty to Trump.

The release of text messages from administration officials as they struggled with Trump's decision to involve his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, in efforts to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and the Democratic National Committee. The televised testimony of career public servants who raised grave concerns about Trump's actions in real time. Then, last week's revelation that former national security John Bolton will reveal in an upcoming book that the president told him directly that crucial military aid to Ukraine was being held up until Ukraine agreed to the investigations into Democrats.

But those moments of GOP anxiety proved to be fleeting. Time after time, Republicans found reasons to stand by the president.

Their reasons were many. The aid to Ukraine was ultimately released. There were real questions about a potential conflict of interest with Biden given his son's work with a Ukrainian energy company. And in the ultimate chicken-or-egg argument, GOP senators said they couldn't support conviction — or even a

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hearing for new witnesses — because the process had not been bipartisan.

"It seems like the die has been cast here," Biden said Friday after a campaign event in Iowa. The only remedy that remains, he said, comes in November.

"I just have to beat him in the general election," he said of Trump.

Trump will now campaign with the stain of impeachment on his record, but it's unclear whether the case that has tied up Washington for four months will still be fresh in voters' minds in November.

One thing that is certain is that Trump's acquittal will be followed by new revelations related to the impeachment case. Among them: legal cases pending that relate to Giuliani's work in Ukraine and documents that have yet to be made public.

Then there is the unpublished book from Bolton, who said he was willing to testify under oath if the Senate was willing to hear from new witnesses. Republicans rejected that chance on Friday.

His book, which clocks in at 528 pages, is set for a March 17 release.

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace has covered the White House and politics for The Associated Press since 2007. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

## Hippo Fiona makes a mess of her Super Bowl pick

CINCINNATI (AP) — Bettors looking for an edge in picking Sunday's Super Bowl winner may (or may not) want to consider the selection thrown up by Fiona, the hippopotamus heartthrob at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

Zoo keepers on Thursday placed two "enrichment" toys in front of her, marked with the logos of the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers. While the plan called for Fiona to nudge one of the items with her snout to indicate her pick, she instead chose to lose her leafy green lunch on the Chiefs' item, WLWT-TV reports.

Fiona's premature birth three years ago drew international attention. She has since grown to 1,200 pounds (544 kilograms), roughly the weight of four NFL offensive linemen. It's the third year she has handicapped the Super Bowl, correctly picking the Philadelphia Eagles to beat the New England Patriots in 2018, but missing on the Los Angeles Rams upsetting the Patriots in 2019.

Fiona celebrated her third birthday Jan. 24. She weighed just 29 pounds (13.2 kilograms) at birth, 25 pounds (11.3 kilograms) less than the lowest recorded birth weight for her species.

It's unclear whether Fiona knew the point spread for Sunday's game. The Chiefs are favored by a point.

## Kenin of US tops Muguruza at Australian Open for 1st major

By **HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer**

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — This, essentially, was where Sofia Kenin was going to win or lose the Australian Open final: She was down love-40 while serving at 2-all in the third set against two-time major champion Garbiñe Muguruza.

Kenin sensed this was the moment that would matter. Up in the stands of Rod Laver Arena, so did her father, Alex, who's also her coach.

"I knew I had to take my chance," Kenin said. "I had to be brave."

Sure was. The 21-year-old American won the next five points, each with a winner -- one an ace, the others clean groundstrokes to cap exchanges of 11 shots or more — and was on her way to becoming a Grand Slam champion.

Demonstrative as can be -- whether spiking a ball, dropping her red-white-and-blue racket or slapping her thigh -- and at her best when necessary, the 14th-seeded Kenin won the first major final of her career Saturday by coming back to beat a fading Muguruza 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 at Melbourne Park.

"That's the game I feel, like, changed things. I had to play some (of my) best tennis. I did," Kenin said. "After that, I was on fire. I was ready to take the beautiful trophy."

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Kenin was so magnificent when it mattered the most, saving 10 of 12 break points she faced, while converting 5 of 6 that she earned.

"I'm not very happy about my performance. ... At the important moments, I didn't find my shots," Muguruza said. "I think she found her shots. I didn't."

Muguruza was visited by a trainer after the second set and her movement wasn't ideal down the stretch. Nor was her serving: She double-faulted eight times, including three in the last game, one on championship point.

"A little bit lack of energy," Muguruza said.

For quite some time, Kenin was overlooked and underappreciated, drawing much less attention than other young tennis players from the U.S., such as 15-year-old Coco Gauff -- Kenin beat her in the fourth round this week -- and 18-year-old Amanda Anisimova.

Maybe it was because Kenin is only 5-foot-7 (1.70 meters). Maybe it was because she went into last season with this resume: ranked outside the top 50, yet to get past the third round of a major, yet to win a tour-level title.

Kenin will be taken more seriously now. By everyone. She is the youngest Australian Open champion since 2008, when Maria Sharapova won the hard-court tournament at age 20.

Kenin, who eliminated No. 1 Ash Barty in the semifinals, is expected to rise to No. 7 in Monday's WTA rankings, the youngest American to make her debut in the top 10 since Serena Williams in 1999.

"Those people that didn't believe in her, they had very valid reasons not to, because she's always been the smallest one," Alex Kenin said the day before the final. "But I guess, thank God, I saw something that they didn't. Because I know her better. I feel pretty happy. I guess I was right."

In the men's final on Sunday, defending champion Novak Djokovic will face Dominic Thiem, a 26-year-old Austrian who was the runner-up to Rafael Nadal at the French Open the past two years. Djokovic seeks a record-extending eighth title at Melbourne Park and 17th major trophy overall; Thiem is trying to become the first man born in the 1990s to win a Grand Slam title.

Kenin was born in 1998 in Moscow to Russian parents; they had moved to New York in the 1980s, but returned to be with family for the birth of their daughter. A few months later, they went back to the U.S. for good; Kenin grew up in Florida and still makes her home there.

Muguruza came into the day with a far more formidable record. She has been ranked No. 1 and won the French Open in 2016 and Wimbledon in 2017 -- the only woman to beat each Williams sister in a Grand Slam final.

But she tumbled out of the top 30 last season because of so-so results. She was trying to become only the third unseeded champion at the Australian Open in the professional era, which began in 1968.

Muguruza put on her game face from the moment she walked through the tunnel leading to the court. She didn't even spare a smile for pre-match photos up at the net with a grinning Kenin.

And when she made her first move in front, breaking to go up 2-1 after 15 minutes, Muguruza just tucked her racket under her left arm like an old-school commuter with a folded newspaper on the way to catch a subway train.

Kenin makes her mood obvious at all times.

After lost points, she bounced her racket or kicked it, rolled her eyes, muttered to herself. After winning points, she would pump a fist and scream "Come on!" -- or, when she went up 5-2 in the second set, Kenin grabbed a tennis ball and slammed it off the blue court. Did that again later, too, as the end neared.

While Muguruza generally stuck to her preferred tactic of hit-'em-hard, harder, hardest -- not a ton of nuance -- and moving forward when an opening demanded it, Kenin put more shape and spin on balls, and turned to her favorite element, drop shots, when possible.

Muguruza took the last two games of the opening set to move in front.

"I was obviously devastated," Kenin would say later.

But that is where the match's direction switched completely.

Kenin's play elevated, yes, but Muguruza's dropped. Her serve percentage and speed dipped. Her footwork was problematic.



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Kenin broke to go up 3-1 and again to force a third set.

That's when Kenin stood her ground at that key juncture at 2-all in the third, holding there and then breaking immediately.

"A very important moment," Muguruza called it.

Well, there's an understatement.

Soon enough, Kenin was kissing the trophy, just as her father had kissed her on the cheek right before the walk from the hallway outside the locker room to the court.

When Kenin entered the interview room for her post-match news conference, she was handed a glass of bubbly. She's barely old enough to drink legally back home, but yes, she is old enough.

Her mom stayed in Florida and awaited a phone call to find out about the match — too nervous to watch in person or on TV.

When it was time for Kenin's on-court speech, Dad called her over for a bit of advice.

"He just told me a few things what to say," Kenin said. "I told him, 'I know what to say. I'm 21. I can do this.'"

What can't she do right now?

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## US states join global push to ban animal-tested cosmetics

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A growing number of U.S. states are considering a ban on the sale or import of cosmetics that have been tested on animals, as advocates argue testing products such as lotions, shampoos and makeup on rabbits, mice and rats is cruel and outdated.

The cause has gained support from consumers and many cosmetics companies, but the biggest hurdle is China, which requires that cosmetics sold in its large, lucrative market undergo testing on animals.

California, Nevada and Illinois all saw new laws take effect this year that ban the sale or import of animal-tested cosmetics.

The laws, which apply to tests performed after Jan. 1, aren't expected to cause much disruption for the industry because many companies already use non-animal testing. Instead, they draw a line in the sand that puts pressure on the U.S. government to pass a nationwide ban and help end China's requirement that most cosmetics sold in that nation of more than 1.4 billion people undergo testing on animals by Chinese regulators.

China's policy applies to all imported cosmetics, including makeup, perfume and hair care products, along with some "special use" goods produced in China, such as hair dye, sunscreen and whitening products that make functional claims.

Animal-tested cosmetics already are banned in Europe, India and elsewhere. A ban in the United States, one of the world's largest economies, would put further global pressure on China to end its policy and push Chinese cosmetics companies to rely on non-animal tests if they want to sell their products in the U.S.

"We're not trying to create an island out here in Nevada," said state Sen. Melanie Scheible, who sponsored Nevada's law. "We are trying to join a group of other communities that have stood up and said, 'We don't support animal testing.'"

Animal-rights groups like Cruelty Free International and the Humane Society of the United States hope to get more states to pass bans this year.

Legislation has been introduced or will soon be made public in Hawaii, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Virginia, according to Cruelty Free International, and a national ban has been introduced in Congress since 2014, though the bipartisan measure has been slow to advance. The most recent version introduced in November marks the first time the country's leading cosmetics trade group, the Personal Care Products

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Council, has become a vocal backer of the ban, support that should ease lawmaker concerns about business opposition.

The California, Nevada and Illinois laws create exemptions for any cosmetics that were tested on animals to comply with regulations of a foreign government — an exception that acknowledges the reality that most companies will see their products tested on animals if they sell in China.

China is a “big complicating factor,” said Monica Engebretson, who leads public affairs for Cruelty Free International in North America. “That’s put companies that want to enter that Chinese market in a real bind.”

Scheible said her aim in Nevada was not to punish those multinational corporations but to raise awareness and put pressure on other governments, like China, to act.

“A lot of people thought that we no longer tested on animals at all,” she said. “They thought that this was already a thing of the past.”

The bans in all three states require cosmetics sellers to use non-animal tests to prove their products are safe. Many international companies are already doing that after the European Union passed a series of similar bans on animal testing, culminating with a 2013 ban on the sale of animal-tested products.

Supporters note that science has advanced, allowing companies in most cases to use non-animal alternatives — such as human cell cultures or lab-grown human skin and eye tissue — to test whether a product or ingredient is safe.

For example, EpiDerm, a synthetic skin tissue made by Massachusetts-based MatTek Corp., is created from cells taken from skin donated during procedures such as breast reduction surgery, circumcision and tummy tuck procedures.

Products can be applied to synthetic tissue to determine whether they cause skin irritation, damage, sensitivity or other issues. That can be used in place of a testing a product on the back of a shaved rabbit, animal rights supporters say.

Some of the biggest names in personal care and beauty, including Avon, Unilever and Procter & Gamble, have used MatTek’s tissues for testing.

Carl Westmoreland, a safety scientist with Unilever, said the European Union ban drove more innovation in non-animal testing. Companies like Unilever, trade groups and advocates are among those working with Chinese regulators and scientists to push for new rules, helping to familiarize them with procedures and results from non-animal tests.

“They have been changing and are continuing to change,” he said, noting China in recent years has allowed some cosmetics produced within the country to avoid animal testing.

Francine Lamoriello, executive vice president for global strategies at the Personal Care Products Council said it’s a slow process, but Chinese regulators are working to accept non-animal tests.

“They’re having conferences. They really seem to be quite motivated to do as best as they can to accept and validate certain methods,” she said.

The Personal Care Products Council supports most of the state legislation but is pushing for a nationwide law instead of a patchwork of rules across the country.

Similar to the state laws, the proposed ban before Congress would exempt cosmetics required to undergo testing in China. It would allow those products to be sold in the U.S. as long as sellers relied on additional, non-animal tests to show they are safe.

California was first to pass the legislation in 2018, a move that’s part of the state’s pattern of wielding its status as the world’s fifth-largest economy to push change.

“That’s the beauty of doing things in California,” said Judie Mancuso with the group Social Compassion in Legislation who pressed for that state’s ban. “You set the stage, you set the standard, and others grab it and grow.”

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Associated Press researcher Shanshan Wang in Beijing contributed to this report.

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## AP FACT CHECK: Trump on Democrats, impeachment and cows

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Contrary to a statement by President Donald Trump, Democrats are not aiming to kill cows, Iowa farmers or you.

Trump's fictional take on murderous Democrats, which he played for laughs at an Iowa rally, came during a week dominated by the Senate impeachment trial and the multitude of distortions it produced. A look at recent rhetoric about impeachment, his newly signed trade deal and more:

### COWS

TRUMP, assailing the "Green New Deal, which would crush our farms, destroy our wonderful cows. I love cows. They want to kill our cows. You know why, right? You know why? Don't say it. They want to kill our cows. That means you are next." — Iowa rally Thursday.

THE FACTS: No one is coming after cows or people because of the Green New Deal, a plan put forward by some liberal Democrats. It calls for huge spending to retool the economy to break its dependence on fossil fuels.

The plan proposes working "collaboratively with farmers" to remove greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture "as much as is technologically feasible" and does not try to force farms off of livestock. Trump is ignoring the plan itself and focusing on an information sheet released, then retracted, by one of the sponsors. It made a joke about banning cows and airplanes.

Trump has further predicted that his trade deals will bring so much business to farmers that they will need more land and tractors. If so, that would presumably increase the slaughter of "wonderful" cows.

### IVANKA TRUMP

TRUMP, on his daughter, Ivanka: "And now created over 15 million jobs for the people of our country. ... It was going to be 500,000. 'Daddy, I think we can do 500,000.' Within about a week, she broke that and now she's up to 15 million jobs. It's fantastic." — White House meeting Friday.

THE FACTS: It's not remotely true. Less than half that many jobs have been added to the entire workforce during Trump's presidency and his daughter is not responsible for them.

The president is referring to a White House initiative led by Ivanka Trump that has garnered nonbinding commitments from companies to provide 14 million or so training opportunities in the years ahead. Training for a job is not working at a job for money.

There's no telling how many workers were already going to be trained, absent the initiative. In many cases, the pledge simply confers a presidential seal of approval on what some companies are doing anyway. By having companies sign the pledge, the administration is relying on the private sector to take on more of the financial burden of training workers.

### AUTOS

TRUMP: "We're going to get a lot more car companies moving in. We have a lot more companies moving in. ... Jobs are coming back, and they're coming back fast, and they're coming right here to Michigan. They are coming rapidly. You see what's going on." — remarks in Michigan on Thursday.

THE FACTS: Automobile manufacturing jobs have not come back fast to Michigan under Trump. They have declined slightly since he took office, according to the Labor Department.

Between Trump's inauguration in January 2017 and the end of last year, auto manufacturing jobs in Michigan declined by 100, to 42,200. Auto-parts jobs grew by 1,300, or just under 1%, to 133,200. No boom has been experienced.

As for his prediction that many more such jobs are coming, that's difficult to tell.

The three big automakers have altogether announced plans to add over 10,000 jobs in Michigan in coming years. But they've also cut or plan to cut thousands of other jobs in the state.

### ECONOMY and TRADE



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TRUMP: "The USMCA is the largest, fairest, most balanced and modern trade agreement ever achieved." — signing ceremony Wednesday for the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement.

THE FACTS: It's not the largest trade deal ever made. It covers the same three countries as before. In contrast, the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations concluded in 1994 created the World Trade Organization and was signed by 123 countries. The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston found the following year that the WTO's initial membership accounted for more than 90 percent of global economic output.

TRUMP: The USMCA "will make our blue-collar boom — which is beyond anybody's expectation — even bigger, stronger, and more extraordinary." — signing ceremony Wednesday.

THE FACTS: There isn't a boom for blue-collar workers, and few economists expect the trade pact to add much.

Such workers haven't done substantially better than everyone else, and some of their gains under Trump have faded in the past year as his trade war hurt manufacturing. The mining and logging industry, for example, which includes oil and gas workers, lost 21,000 jobs last year. Manufacturers have added just 9,000 jobs in the past six months, while the economy as a whole gained more than 1.1 million jobs during that period.

The U.S. economy is still heavily oriented toward services. While factory jobs have grown, other jobs have grown faster, so manufacturing has slightly shrunk as a proportion of the work force since Trump took office.

The independent U.S. International Trade Commission estimated last year that the trade pact would create 49,700 jobs in manufacturing and mining over six years, a fraction of 1% of the existing 13.5 million U.S. jobs in factories and mines.

TRUMP: "More Americans are working today than have ever worked in the history of our country. We're up to almost 160 million people working. We've never even come close to a number like that." — signing ceremony Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Yes, but that's driven by population growth. A more relevant measure is the proportion of Americans with jobs, and that is still below record highs.

According to Labor Department data, 61% of people in the United States 16 years and older were working in December. That's below the all-time high of 64.7% in April 2000.

## IMPEACHMENT

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER CHUCK SCHUMER: "If the president is acquitted with no witnesses, no documents, the acquittal will have no value because Americans will know that this trial was not a real trial." — statement Friday.

HOUSE SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI: "You cannot be acquitted if you don't have a trial. You don't have a trial if you don't have witnesses and documentation." — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: Trump can indeed be acquitted by the Senate based on the proceedings as they unfolded. And acquittal would have great value, contrary to Schumer's assertion, because it would keep Trump in office for the rest of his term.

Just as the Constitution gives the House the sole power to impeach, it gives the Senate full responsibility to conduct the trial as it sees fit and to convict or acquit the accused official.

The rules and practices of a normal trial do not apply. The decision whether to call witnesses and how else to proceed is left to elected representatives by constitutional design. A majority of those representatives in the House voted to impeach Trump and a majority of them in the Senate voted to call no witnesses in the trial and move toward a verdict.

Republicans who accused Democrats of an unfair process in the House and Democrats who accused Republicans of unfairness in the Senate are entitled to their political arguments but those points do not undermine the legitimacy of the process in either chamber.

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TRUMP: "The Democrat controlled House never even asked John Bolton to testify. It is up to them, not up to the Senate!" — tweet Monday.

THE FACTS: That's false in its entirety. House Democrats did ask Bolton to testify, and he declined. He did not show up for his deposition. Trump is also incorrect in suggesting impeachment witnesses are the sole province of the House.

House Democrats decided not to pursue a subpoena compelling Bolton to testify in the House proceedings because he threatened to sue, which could have meant an extended court fight. Afterward, however, Bolton signaled his willingness to testify at the Senate trial if he were subpoenaed.

The Senate is empowered to summon witnesses if it chooses, contrary to Trump's suggestion that "it is up to" the House only. But Republicans gathered enough votes to stop witnesses from being called in the Senate trial.

Bolton's behind-the-scenes account is in the manuscript of his coming book. It intensified calls from Democrats to make him a witness because it contradicted key assertions by Trump and his defense team's argument that there was no evidence the president conditioned aid to Ukraine on an investigation of his political rivals.

TRUMP LAWYER JAY SEKULOW, referring to Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine's leader: "Asking a foreign leader to get to the bottom of issues of corruption is not a violation of an oath." — trial Monday.

THE FACTS: Trump made no such request in the phone call. And beyond the phone call, there's scant if any evidence that Trump cared about Ukraine's history of systemic corruption unless it might involve Hunter Biden, son of former Vice President Joe Biden, a Trump political rival. Hunter Biden was on the board of a Ukrainian energy company when his father was vice president.

In the call, according to the rough transcript released by the White House, Trump repeatedly pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate the Bidens and a groundless conspiracy theory that Ukrainians tried to help Democrats win the 2016 election. Trump didn't mention Ukrainian corruption.

Trump delayed military aid to Ukraine despite a Pentagon review that found the country had made sufficient progress in cleaning up its legacy of corruption to merit the aid that Congress had approved.

SEKULOW: "The president of the United States, before he was the president, was under an investigation. It was called Crossfire Hurricane. It was an investigation led by the FBI." — trial Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Trump was not under investigation before he took office.

In fact, Trump says he was told that directly and repeatedly by then-FBI Director James Comey. Comey has said the same publicly.

The FBI counterintelligence investigation dubbed Crossfire Hurricane was underway when Trump took office, but that was into whether his campaign more generally coordinated with Russia to tip the election. Agents were also looking criminally at several Trump aides, but that's different from Trump being under investigation.

The situation did change after a matter of months, when Trump fired Comey in May 2017. After that happened, the FBI began looking into whether Trump had criminally obstructed justice. Former acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe has said the FBI also began investigating whether Trump might have been acting on behalf of Russia.

SEKULOW: "It was President Zelenskyy who said no pressure." — trial Monday.

THE FACTS: True, but the statement skirts important context.

In and around the July 25 phone call, Zelenskyy was deferential to Trump as Ukraine, menaced by Russia, tried to keep U.S. military aid flowing. Even so, Ukrainian officials felt pressure for months to do Trump's bidding, and Zelenskyy himself eventually complained about Trump's dealings with him.

The Associated Press reported that in May, even before taking office, Zelenskyy knew that vital military support might depend on whether he agreed to investigate Democrats as Trump was demanding.

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After the July 25 call, Zelenskiy said he had no problem with Trump's comments on the call. But by then, Ukrainian officials were wondering why the aid was being held up. And in October, while insisting "there was no pressure or blackmail from the U.S.," he criticized Trump for blocking the aid and for casting his country as corrupt.

"If you're our strategic partner, then you can't go blocking anything for us," he told Time. "I think that's just about fairness."

TRUMP LAWYER MIKE PURPURA, dismissing the idea that military aid was released because Trump's pressure campaign on Ukraine had been exposed: "On Sept. 11, based on the information collected and presented to President Trump, the president lifted the pause on the security assistance. ... Our process gave the president the confidence he needed to approve the release of the security sector assistance. ... The president's concerns were addressed in the ordinary course; the president wasn't 'caught' as the House managers allege." — trial Monday.

THE FACTS: The "pause" in Ukraine's military aid was hardly routine, according to testimony heard by House investigators. Moreover, the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office found the aid freeze to be illegal.

House investigators heard about confusion and frustration among senior State Department and Pentagon officials when they learned the congressionally approved aid was being held.

"I was embarrassed that I could not give (Ukraine) any explanation for why it was withheld," said William Taylor, who was the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine.

The Defense Department's Laura Cooper said she and other national security aides unsuccessfully tried to get an explanation for the hold and expressed concern about the White House's legal authority. The Pentagon had already certified to congressional committees in May that Ukraine had made enough progress on reducing corruption to receive the military assistance.

Catherine Croft, special adviser for Ukraine at the State Department, said national security agencies were unified in support of the aid, and she had never before encountered a time when the White House budget office had injected itself into such a matter.

Top advisers scrambled to get Trump to release the aid through August. Ultimately, on Sept. 11, the funds were suddenly released, after Trump learned of the whistleblower's complaint and a few days after Democrats opened a congressional investigation of the episode. The GAO later found that the White House budget office "withheld the funds for an unauthorized reason in violation" of the law that requires the executive branch to spend money that is appropriated by Congress.

Associated Press writers Laurie Kellman, Paul Wiseman, Christopher Rugaber and Eric Tucker in Washington and Tom Krisher in Detroit contributed to this report.

EDITOR'S NOTE — A look at the veracity of claims by political figures.

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## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Feb. 2, the 33rd day of 2020. There are 333 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 2, 1653, New Amsterdam — now New York City — was incorporated.

On this date:

In 1876, the National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs was formed in New York.

In 1887, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, held its first Groundhog Day festival.

In 1913, New York City's rebuilt Grand Central Terminal officially opened to the public at one minute past midnight.



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In 1922, the James Joyce novel "Ulysses" was published in Paris on Joyce's 40th birthday.

In 1925, the legendary Alaska Serum Run ended as the last of a series of dog mushers brought a life-saving treatment to Nome, the scene of a diphtheria epidemic, six days after the drug left Nenana.

In 1942, a Los Angeles Times column by W.H. Anderson urged security measures against Japanese-Americans, arguing that a Japanese-American "almost inevitably ... grows up to be a Japanese, not an American."

In 1943, the remainder of Nazi forces from the Battle of Stalingrad surrendered in a major victory for the Soviets in World War II.

In 1971, Idi Amin, having seized power in Uganda, proclaimed himself president.

In 1980, NBC News reported the FBI had conducted a sting operation targeting members of Congress using phony Arab businessmen in what became known as "Abscam," a codename protested by Arab-Americans.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan pressed his case for additional aid to the Nicaraguan Contras a day ahead of a vote by the U.S. House of Representatives. (The three major broadcast TV networks declined to carry the speech, which was covered by CNN; a divided House voted to reject Reagan's request for \$36.2 million in new aid.)

In 1990, in a dramatic concession to South Africa's black majority, President F.W. de Klerk lifted a ban on the African National Congress and promised to free Nelson Mandela.

In 2002, inside the World Economic Forum in New York, foreign economic leaders criticized the United States for protectionist policies while outside, thousands of protesters demonstrated against global capitalism.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, speaking in Nashua, New Hampshire, branded Republicans as electoral opportunists more concerned about their own interests than the people's. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences unveiled its 2009 Oscar nominees; in a first, 10 films were nominated for best picture instead of five, including eventual winner "The Hurt Locker."

Five years ago: President Barack Obama sent Congress a record \$4 trillion budget that would boost tax credits for families and the working poor but also raise taxes on the wealthy. Parts of New England were buried in heavy snow for the second time in a week, with up to 18 inches falling in the Boston area. Jury selection in the trial of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv) was postponed, and a celebration for the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots was pushed back a day.

One year ago: Virginia Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam pledged to remain in office after disavowing a blatantly racist photograph that appeared under his name in his 1984 medical school yearbook. A day after the United States abandoned a 1987 nuclear arms treaty, President Vladimir Putin said Russia would do the same, but would only deploy intermediate-range nuclear missiles if Washington did so.

Today's Birthdays: Former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing (val-eh-REE' ZHEES'-kahr deh-STANG') is 94. Comedian Tom Smothers is 83. Rock singer-guitarist Graham Nash is 78. Television executive Barry Diller is 78. Actor Bo Hopkins is 76. Country singer Howard Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 74. TV chef Ina (EE'-nuh) Garten is 72. Actor Jack McGee is 71. Actor Brent Spiner (SPY'-nur) is 71. Rock musician Ross Valory (Journey) is 71. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, is 68. The former president of South Korea, Park Geun-hye (goon-hay), is 68. Model Christie Brinkley is 66. Actor Michael Talbott is 65. Actress Kim Zimmer is 65. Actor Michael T. Weiss is 58. Actor-comedian Adam Ferrara is 54. Rock musician Robert DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple Pilots) is 54. Actress Jennifer Westfeldt is 50. Rock musician Ben Mize is 49. Rapper T-Mo is 48. Actress Marissa Jaret Winokur is 47. Actress Lori Beth Denberg is 44. Rock musician Jesse Siebenberg (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 44. Singer Shakira is 43. Actor Rich Sommer is 42. Country singer Blaine Larsen is 34. Actress Zosia (ZAH'-shuh) Mamet is 32.

Thought for Today: "Mistakes are the portals of discovery." — James Joyce (1882-1941).

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