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It's Girls' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Northwestern
Area
Wildcats** VS



Groton Area Tigers

8:00 p.m.: Monday, Feb. 03, 2020 at Mellette

Sponsored by the
Locke Electric & the SD Army National Guard

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Second Quarter GHS Honor Roll

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Kaycie Hawkins, Kayla Jensen, Nicole Marzahn, Indigo Rogers, KaSandra Pappas, Kaylin Kucker, Payton Colestock, Madeline Schuelke

3.99-3.50: Kya Jandel, Tadyn Glover, Caitlynn Barse,

3.49-3.00: Jamesen Stange, Ashley Fliehs, Eliza Wanner, Cole Johnson, Kimberly Kohrs, Grady O'Neill, Noah Poor, Austin Jones

Juniors

4.0 GPA: Isaac Smith, Erin Unzen, Alexis Hanten, Alexa Herr, Tanae Lipp, Sage Mortenson, Grace Wambach, Samantha Pappas

3.99-3.50: Hailey Monson, Dragr Monson, Regan Leicht, Kannon Coats, Tessa Erdmann, Brooklyn Gilbert, Trey Gengerke, Grace Wiedrick, Alex Morris, Jasmine Gengerke

3.49-3.00: Alyssa Fordham, Steven Paulson, Chandler Larson, Connor Lehman, Kale Pharis, Kaden Carda, Eh Tha You Say

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Seth Johnson, Stella Meier

3.99-3.50: Allyssa Locke, Travis Townsend, Jordan Bjerke, Madeline Fliehs, Trista Keith, Kansas Kroll, Hannah Gustafson, Pierce Kettering, Madisen Bjerke, Julianna Kosel, Jace Kroll, Kennedy Anderson

3.49-3.00: Lane Krueger, Megan Fliehs, Alyssa Thaler, Kaden Kurtz, Cassaundra Schultz, Evin Nehls, River Pardick, Torrence Wiseman, Ryder Daly, Trinity Smith, Jayden Zak

Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Jacob Lewandowski

3.99-3.50: Andrew Marzahn, Jackson Dinger, Cole Simon, Ethan Clark, Caleb Hanten, Kaleb Antonsen, Jacelynn Gleason, Cole Bisbee, Aspen Johnson, Porter Johnson, Sierra Ehresmann, Gracie Traphagen, Elliana Weismantel, KayLynn Overacker, Cadance Tullis

3.49-3.00: Brooke Gengerke, Isaac Higgins, Michael Aalseth, James Brooks, Tyson Parrow, Carter Barse, Brenna Carda, Shaylee Peterson, Kamryn Fliehs, Shallyn Foertsch, Jackson Bahr

Eighth Graders

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Claire Heinrich, Hannah Monson, Emily Clark, Camryn Kurtz, Lydia Meier, Holden Sippel, Ashlyn Sperry, Abigail Jensen, Jaycie Lier, Lexi Osterman, Karsyn Jangula, Sydney Leicht, Kyleigh Englund

3.49-3.00: Cadance Feist, Anna Bisbee, Lane Tietz, Anna Fjeldheim, Dillon Abeln, Sara Menzia, Bradin Althoff, Faith Fliehs, Emma Schinkel, Bryson Wambach, Ava Wienk

Seventh Graders

4.0 GPA: Gretchen Dinger, Axel Warrington

3.99-3.50: Payton Mitchell, Elizabeth Fliehs, Blake Pauli, Faith Traphagen

3.49-3.00: Ashlyn Feser, Jeslyn Kosel, Aiden Heathcote, Carter Simon, Easten Ekern, Emily Overacker, Kaden Kampa, Tuner Thompson

Sixth Graders

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Nathan Unzen, Carly Gilbert, Jaedyn Penning, Benjamin Hoeft, Talli Wright, Mia Crank, Jerica Locke, Natalia Warrington, Lucas Carda, Logan Warrington

3.49-3.00: De Eh Tha Say, Karter Moody, Ryder Johnson, Gage Sippel, Karsten Fliehs, Cali Tollifson, Rylee Dunker, Olivia Stiegelmeier, Keegen Tracy, Garrett Schultz, Raelee Lilly, Paisley Mitchell, Landon Smith, Lincoln Krause

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Lana's Annals-House of Representatives

by Lana Greenfield

Greetings from the Capitol! Work is starting to pick up. The bills on our paperless system are now appearing and getting sponsors. I might mention here that if anyone questions as to why a representative or senator did not help sponsor a certain bill, it just could be that our names were overlooked when requests for sponsorship were made. Case in point: some prime sponsor may only invite 20 legislators out of 105 to be sponsors. It is a new system with changes for ease in usage being made each week.

The education committee heard HB 1083, which asks for our state's technical institutes be re-named colleges. A few questions were asked as to why the change. The response was that other states are doing it so as they feel "institute" has some negative connotation and that people nowadays want to be known as college graduates. I did not sponsor this bill as I felt the name change was not needed. I pointed out that LATI (not LATC) is known around the country for its high achievement. I asked how much enrollment has been lost due to the current name. Answer was "None known." The bill did pass committee, and I did vote for it; however, not before I mentioned that it was "feel good" legislation. I will be watching carefully to see if this impending change will

evoke an increase of students and/or in tuition. It will be debated on the floor this week.

The House members had a spirited debate on HB 1063, one that asks for our state's possible compliance of raising the smoking age from 18 to 21 as the federal law has declared. There was passion on both sides. Many spoke to the increased health concerns due to smoking and other tobacco products. Others pointed out that we should not comply as it interferes with personal freedom. Both sides were compelling as I do believe 18 may be the right age for a person to make the decision as whether to smoke or not; however, as a business owner and legislator, I certainly would want to comply with federal regulations. In addition, our Spink coalition works with SADD (students against destructive behaviors) students, and these young people strive to get the word out that smoking and vaping is very harmful. Therefore, I voted in favor of the bill. I do want to add, though, that just passing a law does NOT mean that everyone between 18 and 21 will automatically quit. While the product may become harder to obtain, not all will follow the rules. We have seen this with speeding, drinking, texting, etc.

HB1085 took a wild turn in State Affairs committee. This was a bill I sponsored which asks for us to stay at one time year round instead of standard and then daylight savings. People are getting tired of this archaic idea. I defended keeping it at standard time. I felt my arguments were solid, but they were disputed by the west river committee members who said their constituents like the hour of daylight in the evening for outdoor activities. One expressed that he liked that time for his grandchildren to get out of school and to go outside and play rather than sitting inside on a computer. At that time, one of the committee members offered a substitute motion to adopt daylight savings time year round. That passed 8-5. Some of my constituents said this would be viable as at least it creates consistency. I now have to debate it on the floor. I have choices: support daylight savings year round, amend it back to standard, or table the bill. I should add that if daylight savings time passes, we would have to wait until the federal government would give clearance for it.

The main subject for discussion in our second Saturday Cracker Barrel in Aberdeen was HB1096, which would ban commercial surrogacy contracts and provide penalties against "for profit" agencies. This bill would treat surrogacy like an organ donor who does not work with "for profit" companies. The bill would support surrogacy requestors covering the expenses of the surrogate mother. This is a complicated bill. The main goal would be to punish brokers that support the sale of children. Many questions are involved: If a surrogate goes through an agency like just mentioned and if the pregnancy is lost, does the surrogate still get at least partial payment? What about the agency with whom they contracted? I personally think we will have many questions with the way the bill is written. While I do not believe surrogacy is a bad thing at all, I do believe that no outside agency should be able to take hostage and charge unreasonable charges for some couple's misfortune.

Then we had the controversial HB1057. What should have been a simple bill to protect children from

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harm, it spun in a different direction to target the sponsors as people who are harassing those who wish to be identified as a term called "transgender." The purpose of the bill was to prevent a young person to be given puberty blockers or having body parts removed at, for example, age 10. Many little children explore all types of play activities. They have tea parties, are policemen, teachers, princes. My granddaughter has boy and girl cousins come over, and they play dress up. As she has no siblings, she only has princess clothes; therefore, for awhile (before my son-in-law insisted packing a Buzz Light year suit to take along!), my grandson ended up being donned in a dress and sometimes a crown! Now that did not mean that this young man had a dysphoria. Therefore, in order to protect children from adult bad decision making, the bill allows them to make their own decisions at age 16. Promoting a young child to alter his God-given sex could ruin his/her entire life.

On another note, I received a call from a very well-spoken young lady, who explained to me what a train wreck her life had been in the formative years. Early elementary life was very isolating as she could not read and the rest of the students made fun of her and called her names. This went on for a few years and several tests were conducted. Finally she was diagnosed as dyslexic. Once that happened, a plan was put into place to help the child. She began to thrive. She has requested a bill will be an informative one that provides booklets to be handed to schools and given to teachers and parents for more identifiable understanding of the disability. I thought that this was a good idea. As a former teacher, I would be first to say dyslexia is difficult to identify as we assume that we all see objects and writing materials in the same ways; unfortunately, the dyslexic may also think this. I am looking forward to her presenting detailed testimony.

This week will be very busy, both in committees and on the floor. I hope you have a chance of watching us daily, first with the House and then the Senate after that. You can find us on SDPBS2 at 2:00. If you do call our chamber, please understand that pages are taking the messages. There is no need to be upset or go into a long explanation. Just identify what bill you are addressing, who you want to contact, and how you wish your legislator(s) to vote. The number is 773-3251.

Until next week, may you enjoy good health and happiness. Rep. Lana Greenfield
lana.greenfield@sdlegislature.gov

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DAK-XII v. NEC CONFERENCE CLASH



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8th, 2020 – MADISON, SD

GAMES WILL BE PLAYED AT MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

GIRLS PAIRINGS

Madison HS Aux. Gym	Madison HS Main Gym
11:45 Webster Area vs. Canton	11:00 Deuel vs. Tri-Valley
1:15 Tiospa Zina vs. Dell Rapids	12:30 Clark/Willow Lake vs. Vermillion
2:45 Milbank vs. Sioux Falls Christian	2:00 Redfield vs. Dakota Valley
4:15 Groton Area vs. Elk Point-Jefferson	3:30 Parkston vs. West Central
5:45 Sisseton vs. Madison	5:00 Aberdeen Roncalli vs. Lennox
	6:30 Hamlin vs. Tea Area

ADULTS \$7 – STUDENTS \$4

Sunscreen...Don't Leave Home Without It

By Kelly Evans-Hullinger, M.D.

It's the dead of winter, and who among us isn't craving the feeling of warm sunshine on our skin? I, for one, am dreaming of summer days spent outdoors, not a care in the world, basking in that delicious ultraviolet light. But alas, I must be my own physician buzzkill (maybe in this case, sun-kill), and remind myself that there is more to those rays than the pure delight I am romanticizing.



The truth is, there is technically no "safe" amount of UV exposure when it comes to our skin and the risk of skin cancer. One in five of us will have a skin cancer diagnosed in our lifetimes, and while many types of skin cancer are not life-threatening, some are. Melanoma, in particular, is a skin cancer with great potential to metastasize and ultimately take lives. Like other skin cancers, ultraviolet exposure is a major risk factor for melanoma.

I can recall one summer day when I was 13, I fell asleep on a July day watching a cousin's baseball game. My fair-skinned back was exposed to the sun, unprotected, leaving me horrendously sunburned in the days that followed. I will never forget those next few days, one of which I spent carrying my golf bag on a hot, humid tournament day, my back covered in blisters. The thought of it now is enough to make me cringe.

And let's not forget it doesn't have to be a hot summer day to incur skin damage. Many of us have been surprised with a sunburn sustained while skiing or ice fishing – sun is sun, whether the temperature is hot or cold – and even on a cloudy day those UV rays make it down to Earth. And don't get me (or your friendly dermatologist) started on the risks posed by tanning beds.

Protecting one's skin from the sun is something we can all do to stay healthier. There are a variety of ways to do this: Avoiding sun entirely or staying in the shade, wearing protective clothing like long sleeves, pants, and a wide brimmed hat, physical sunscreen like zinc oxide, or chemical sunscreen – the experts recommend at least SPF 30 applied every 2 hours.

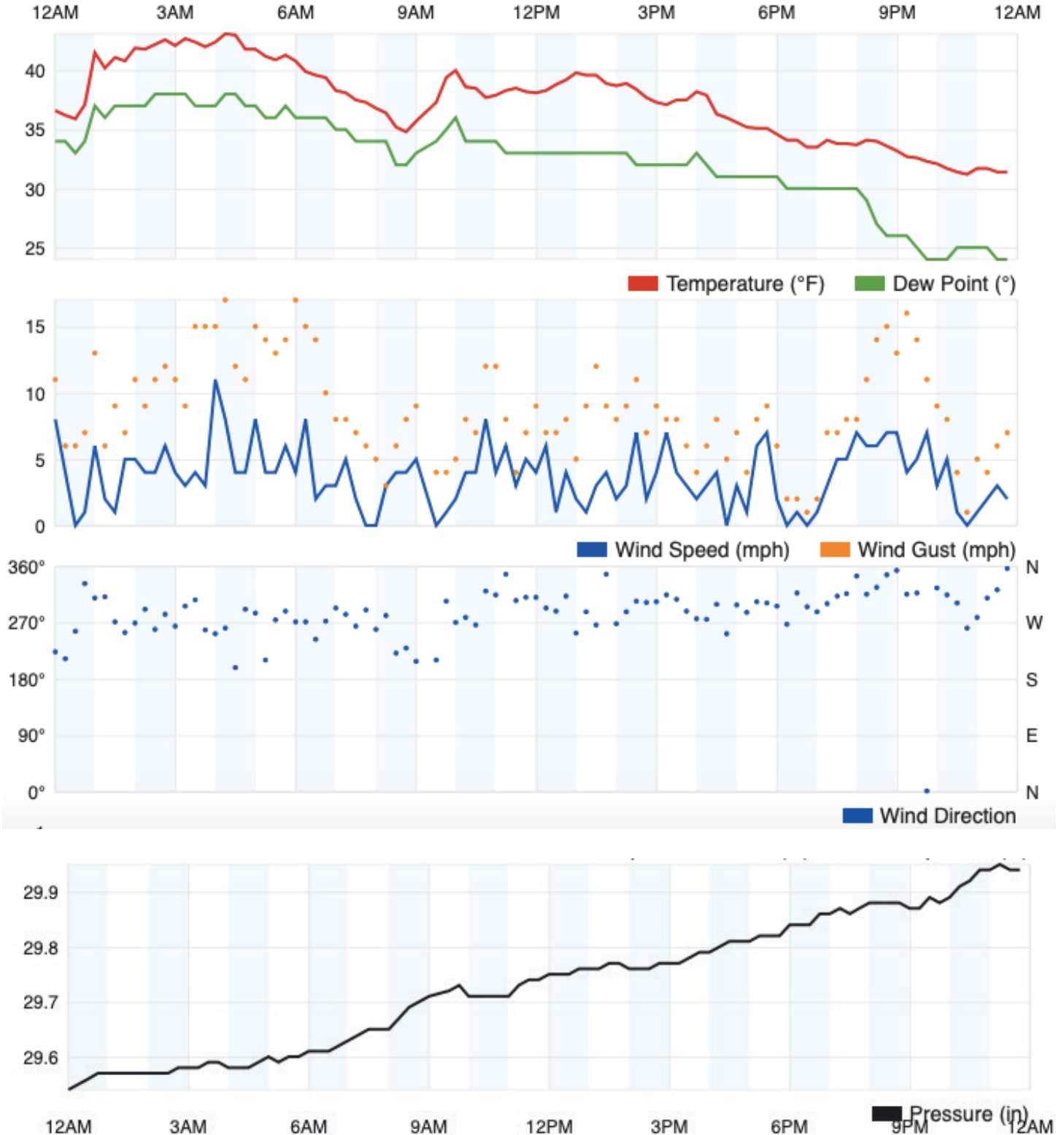
I still love summer. I love being outside for hours, sweating in the sun. But these days you'll find me with SPF 50 applied before I leave the house and carried along at all times for reapplication.

Kelly Evans-Hullinger, M.D. is a contributing Prairie Doc® columnist who has practiced internal medicine for the past four years in Brookings, S.D. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPTV most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

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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

5:15 p.m.: Girls' basketball at Northwestern - C game followed by JV then 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

Death Notice: Curtis Sombke

Curtis Sombke, 84, of Groton passed away Saturday January 25, 2020 at Mountain Vista Memorial Hospital in Mesa, Arizona.

Services are pending for Saturday under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Death Notice: Robert Schuring

Robert Schuring, 92, of Andover passed away Saturday, February 1, 2020 at Sun Dial Manor, Bristol. Services are pending for Saturday under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

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Today



Mostly Sunny
and Breezy
then Partly
Sunny

High: 42 °F ↓

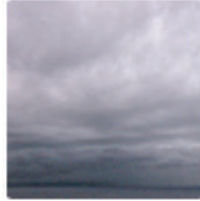
Tonight



Cloudy

Low: 20 °F

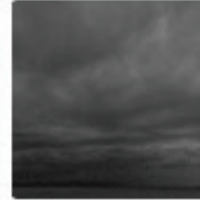
Monday



Cloudy

High: 24 °F ↓

Monday
Night



Cloudy

Low: 6 °F

Tuesday



Partly Sunny

High: 16 °F

Dry and Cooler to Start the Week



Today

- Cloudy
- Highs in the mid 20s



Tonight

- Mostly Cloudy
- Lows 3-14°F (warmer along and west of the Missouri)



Tuesday

- Partly cloudy to mostly sunny
- Highs 11-27°F (warmer along and west of the Missouri)



Aberdeen, SD
Weather Forecast Office

Cooler air filters into the region and generally dry conditions will prevail through Tuesday.

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Today in Weather History

February 3, 1997: A winter storm dropped from 6 to 15 inches of snow across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota deepening the already expansive snowpack. The wind came up from the north at 20 to 30 mph during the morning of the 4th causing blowing and drifting snow blocking some roads and making travel hazardous if not impossible. Several vehicles got stuck or went off the road. Due to the massive snowfall, a roof collapsed in Aberdeen, damaging a car. Many schools started late or were canceled, adding to the number of days missed for the season. Some snowfall amounts included, 5 inches at Wheaton, 6 inches at Britton, Summit, Webster, Browns Valley, Artichoke Lake, and Ortonville, 7 inches at Aberdeen, 6 SE McIntosh, Pollock, Timber Lake, 8 inches at Leola, Ipswich, Eagle Butte and Gettysburg, 9 inches at Miller and Mellette, 10 inches at Mobridge, Watertown, Clear Lake, Pierre, Kennebec, and Onida, and 11 inches at Clark and Blunt. Snowfall amounts of a foot or more included, 12 inches at Highmore, Bryant, and Gann Valley, 13 inches at Faulkton, 14 inches 23 N Highmore and Murdo, and 15 inches at 1 SE Stephan.

1844: Boston Harbor was so thick with ice on this date that a channel had to be cut through the ice for the "Britannia" ship to leave with 30,000 letters for England.

1947: The record-low temperature for continental North America was recorded in Snag, in the Yukon Territory, Canada. The temperature was 81.4 degrees below zero.

1988: Arctic air continued to invade the central U.S. The temperature at Midland, Texas plunged from a record high of 80 degrees to 37 degrees in just three hours. Morning lows in the higher elevations of Wyoming were as cold as 38 degrees below zero. Heavy snow blanketed southwestern Colorado, with 16 inches reported at Steamboat Springs.

1917 - Downtown Miami, FL, reported an all-time record low of 27 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1947 - The temperature at Tanacross, AK, plunged to a record 75 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Wintry weather was confined to freezing drizzle and light snow in the northeastern U.S., and light rain and snow in the western U.S. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Arctic air continued to invade the central U.S. The temperature at Midland TX plunged from a record high of 80 degrees to 37 degrees in just three hours. Morning lows in the higher elevations of Wyoming were as cold as 38 degrees below zero. Heavy snow blanketed southwestern Colorado, with 16 inches reported at Steamboat Springs. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A winter storm brought heavy snow and high winds to the western U.S. Up to three feet of snow blanketed the Sierra Nevada of California, and buried parts of northeastern Washington State under three feet of snow in five days. High winds across Washington State reached 75 mph, with gusts to 105 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Severe cold gripped the north central U.S. The morning low of 29 degrees below zero at Casper WY was a record for the month of February. Wisdom MT hit 53 degrees below zero. Missoula MT reported a wind chill reading of 85 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather over the central Gulf coast states during the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms spawned seven tornadoes in Alabama, including one which touched down north of Birmingham injuring fifteen people and causing nearly three million dollars damage. A tornado at Margaret injured eleven persons and caused a million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

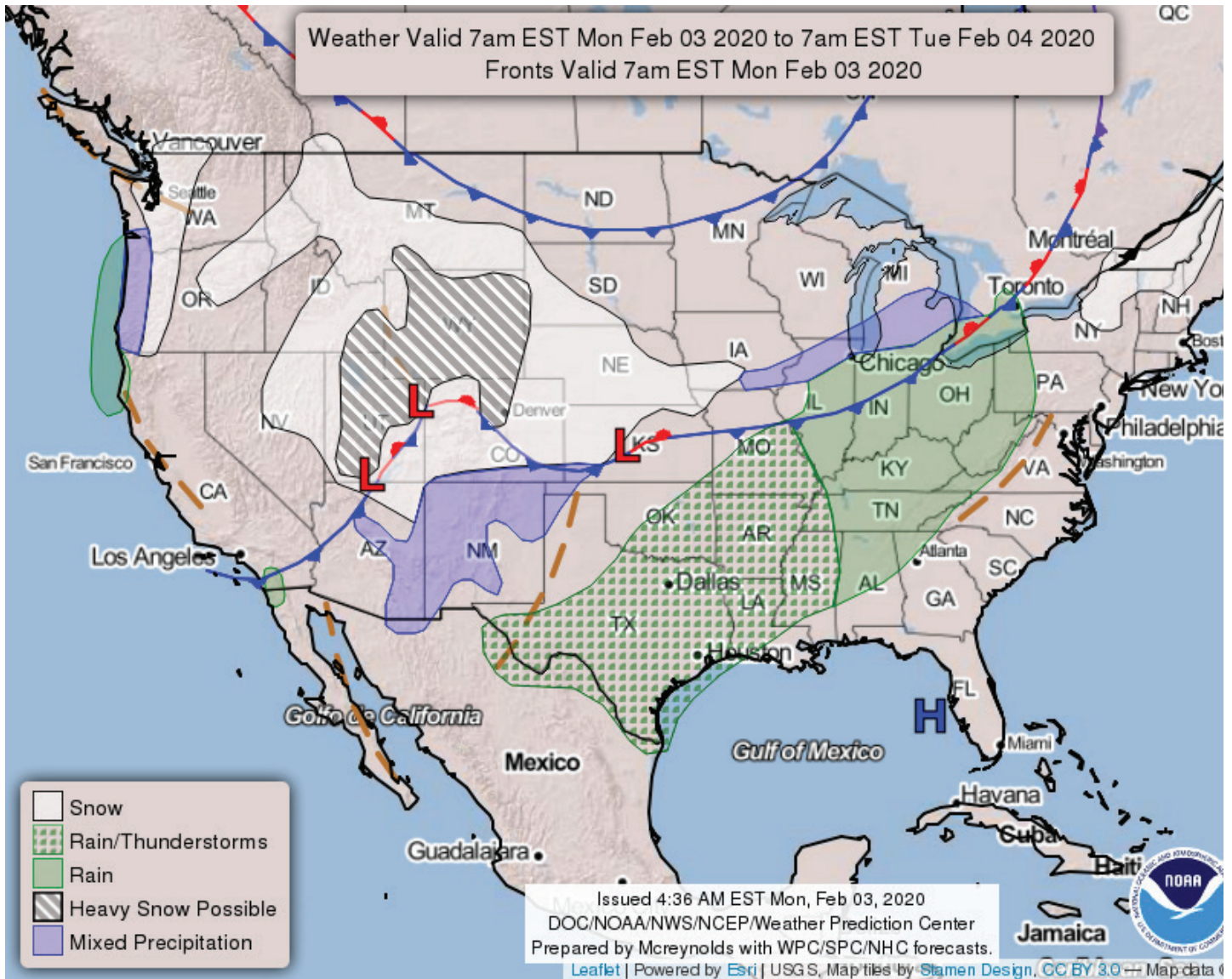
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 43 °F at 2:52 AM
Low Temp: 31 °F at 10:35 PM
Wind: 17 mph at 4:13 AM
Snow

Record High: 58° in 1991
Record Low: -38° in 1893
Average High: 25°F
Average Low: 3°F
Average Precip in Feb.: 0.03
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.50
Precip Year to Date: 0.35
Sunset Tonight: 5:43 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:51 a.m.



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CARING FOR "THE BABE"

Babe Ruth is one of the legends of baseball. He set many records and is remembered for many accomplishments – especially for hitting 714 home runs in his career. His final game, sadly, was a tremendous disappointment to him. His unhealthy lifestyle and age were taking its toll, and he was playing poorly. First, he committed an error when fielding a ground ball. Then, he struck out several times. And because of his poor play, the Cincinnati Reds took a five-run lead. The people began to "boo" him loudly when he came to the plate in the final inning.

Suddenly, a little boy ran from the stands, threw his arms around his legs, and started to cry. The deep affection of the little boy melted the hearts of the crowd. First, they became quiet and then they started to cheer, "The Babe. The Babe!" In spite of it all, they still loved "the Babe!"

God's love is like that. "In spite" of all of our sins and shortcomings, our errors and missed opportunities to honor Him, the Lord deeply loves us. His love contradicts the world's understanding of love because His love is not self-centered. He loves us "unconditionally!"

This love, this God-love, is a love that we do not understand or deserve. It is "giving" love that began with Him, is seen in the life of Jesus and the work of Christ, and must be reflected in our lives. Unless we show that love to others, they will not understand God's love.

Prayer: Help us, Savior, to love others as much as You love us. Help us to be alert to the needs of others, and then help and serve them as Your Son, our Savior did. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

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2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the Associated Press

Sioux Falls moms have new options for breastfeeding support

By KATIE NELSON Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — In Samantha Tully's office in Sioux Falls, a realistic-looking rubber breast sits on a baby scale. Beside it is an infant doll, which Tully has named Baby Marie. They are some of the tools of her trade.

Tully's newly opened business, Mama Be, is all about educating women on nursing their newborns. As the mother of a baby girl herself, Tully knows that such an act — although a natural part of motherhood — is often more difficult than expected and can leave women feeling ashamed and alone when it doesn't seem to be going well.

"It just seems like such a vulnerable time of life when you have a new baby," Tully told the Argus Leader. "I just don't feel like there's a whole lot of options for support."

Giving women options

Tully recently moved to Sioux Falls from Minneapolis for her husband's job. As a registered nurse, she began doing breastfeeding consultations at the pediatric clinic where she worked in Minneapolis. Realizing her passion for the work, she moved to the Amma Parenting Center, the largest independent childbirth class provider in the Twin Cities. Tully taught breastfeeding and newborn care classes.

"When I moved here, there wasn't really a place to do that, besides the hospitals," Tully said. "It seemed like there was a big need for it."

Tully opened Mama Be in October 2019 and began offering home visits. Last month, she began renting space in the Educated Mommy office. Her services include home and office visits, along with pre-birth breastfeeding classes.

Currently, Tully is a certified breastfeeding educator working toward becoming an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. Considered the highest level of certification in breastfeeding education, it requires thousands of practice hours and a rigorous exam that must be taken every 10 years, in addition to continuing education credits.

Compared with larger cities, there are very few lactation consultants in Sioux Falls who operate outside of hospital systems. Tully says she is one of the only ones.

"In bigger cities, there are more lactation consultants who come to your home," she said.

Alicia Fonder also wanted to give mothers the option of home-based help. Formerly an obstetric nurse and breastfeeding instructor at Sanford Hospital, Fonder became an ICBLC and started her own business, South Dakota Babies, in 2011. At the time, she says she was the only independent lactation consultant in Sioux Falls.

"When you see a mom in her own environment, you get a bigger picture of what's going on in her life," Fonder said. "It gives me a better understanding of how to help her."

Back to breastfeeding

While the question of whether to formula feed or breastfeed continues to be a choice mothers have to make for themselves, more women are being encouraged to at least try nursing. The American Pediatrics Association recommends exclusive breastfeeding for at least the first six months of a baby's life.

"We've moved back to putting an emphasis on the benefits of breastfeeding," Tully said. "More people are breastfeeding, so there's a bigger need for the support."

With that emphasis also comes pressure on women to execute nursing perfectly, educators say. But even those who have deep knowledge on the topic can find themselves struggling with doing it themselves.

"I actually struggled with breastfeeding with (my daughter), even though I'm a breastfeeding educator," Tully said. "We kind of add breastfeeding to the list of things we need to be doing perfectly as a mom."

Therese Marlette, a lactation consultant at Sanford Hospital, said many mothers need help with nursing, even if they've already been able to nurse a child successfully.

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"Breastfeeding can be tough," she said. "It all looks like it's supposed to be easy, but sometimes it's not."
Home sweet home

While local hospitals offer lactation consulting services, Tully feels that an in-home approach is better for some women.

"It's a lot more personal, a lot more comfortable," she said.

By being in the client's home, she is able to help them become accustomed to their own breast pump, nursing their newborn their own unique environment.

"Sometimes we'll get a good latch in the office, sitting upright in an office chair," Tully said. "(But) you don't feed in an office chair at home. You're typically feeding on the couch or on the bed, and latch can be a whole different story there."

During the consult, Tully goes over basics like positioning, latching, nipple pain and milk supply. She also brings with her a scale to weigh the baby before and after nursing, to make sure they are eating.

"I can do all that in home," she said.

Home visits can also be useful in South Dakota's bitterly cold climate.

Fonder said she recently visited the mother of a 2-week-old infant in frigid January temperatures.

"She was very happy to have me come to her," Fonder said.

Hospital help

To be sure, many women choose to receive nursing help through the hospital, in both prenatal classes and from lactation consultants.

Barb Giles has the same credentials as the home-based consultants but doesn't make home visits. Giles works at Avera McKennan Hospital, where she has been helping women with breastfeeding for 13 years.

Giles said it's typical for labor and delivery nurses — who are certified lactation consultants — to help with a baby's first feeding. Then, if issues arise, lactation consultants are brought in to help and make a feeding plan for when the baby goes home.

"All new moms need reassurance," Giles said. "Certainly, some moms and babies need more help than others."

If mothers struggle to breastfeed at home, they are encouraged to make an appointment to see a consultant in person, over the phone or through AveraNow video chat, Giles said.

Sanford Health also offers assistance for nursing mothers. Moms can come to the Sanford Women's Health Plaza for walk-in breastfeeding assistance during the week, Marlette said. The health system is also launching a resource later this year that allows women to video chat with a lactation consultant remotely, a service already available in Fargo, North Dakota.

Visiting the clinic and meeting other moms struggling with breastfeeding can be encouraging and supportive, Marlette said. After giving birth, women "tend to be sleep-deprived and isolated" and the clinic is a place they can find camaraderie and help.

"Oftentimes, there are other mothers there who have been through what they're going through," Marlette said.

Hope for future growth

Independent lactation consultants hope Sioux Falls will see more like them in the future.

"I think it will continue to grow as our population continues to grow," Fonder said of the desire for in-home nursing help.

While her business is still in its early stages, Tully said her goal is to help Sioux Falls see the value in nursing support. She hopes to partner with other businesses and offer workshops and other resources to new moms.

"I would love to eventually grow and expand in the ways that I can offer education to prenatal women," she said. "I think that every community could benefit from this."

Whether it's at home or in a hospital, needing breastfeeding support is not something to feel ashamed about, Tully said.

"I want everyone to know that it's normal to need help after, that most people do," she said.

Duffy scores career-high 31, No. 21 South Dakota women win

DENVER (AP) — Ciara Duffy scored a career-high 31 points and No. 21 South Dakota rolled past Denver 104-61 on Sunday for the Coyotes' 10th straight victory.

Duffy was 11-of-17 shooting with five 3-pointers plus seven assists. Chloe Lamb added 18 points, Madison McKeever 11 and Hanna Sjerven 10 with nine rebounds for the Coyotes (21-2, 10-0 Summit League).

The game matched the league's highest-scoring offenses with South Dakota passing its average of 80.9 per game and Denver (9-14, 3-7) held under its 77.2. The Coyotes beat the Pioneers 104-61 on Jan. 5.

Lauren Loven and Meghan Boyd both had four 3-pointers and 14 points for Denver. Madison Nelson added 10 points and nine rebounds.

The Pioneers made 10 3-pointers, one less than South Dakota, but couldn't match the Coyotes in the paint where they were outscored 48-14 and outrebounded 40-24.

Denver had a two-point edge after the first quarter but the Coyotes opened the second period with a 10-0 run to take the lead for good. Duffy scored 10 points in the fourth quarter when the Coyotes outscored the Pioneers 28-9.

More AP women's basketball: <https://apnews.com/Womenscollegebasketball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Hagedorn, Simpson lift South Dakota over Omaha 81-80

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Tyler Hagedorn tossed in 27 points and Triston Simpson made two free throws with 6 seconds remaining to send South Dakota to an 81-80 victory over Omaha on Sunday.

Hagedorn made two free throws with 3:25 left to play to put the Coyotes (16-8, 7-3 Summit League) up 79-74. Matt Pile answered with a dunk for the Mavericks (12-11, 5-3) and Ayo Akinwale made four free throws in a 60-second span to give Omaha an 80-79 lead with 21 seconds to go.

Tyler Peterson finished with 17 points and six rebounds as South Dakota won its fifth straight game. Triston Simpson added 13 points, five rebounds and four assists. Cody Kelley had 10 points. Hagedorn added seven rebounds.

Stanley Umude, who was second on the Coyotes in scoring entering the matchup at 17 points per game, was held to 6 points on 3-of-11 shooting.

KJ Robinson scored 22 top Omaha. Pile added 19 points and nine rebounds. Akinwale sank all eight of his free throws and scored 10.

The Coyotes improve to 2-0 against the Mavericks this season. South Dakota defeated Nebraska Omaha 91-81 on Jan. 11.

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

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Land use vote will affect proposed Wyoming wild horse corral

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Officials are set to make a final decision this week on a land use regulation change that would open the door to a South Dakota company building a wild horse facility in southeastern Wyoming.

Laramie County commissioners are scheduled to vote Tuesday on the change that would affect any future projects that are deemed concentrated animal feeding operations, including Equine Elite's proposed facility in Burns.

Currently, any proposed such projects must have the approval of neighbors within a 3-mile radius but the

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commissioners are considering only requiring neighbors within a mile of a proposed operation to approve, the standard for projects in the rest of the state, the Wyoming Tribune Eagle reported. The standard was raised to 3 miles when a hog operation was proposed.

The county planning commission voted 3-0 against the regulation change.

Equine Elite wants to build a corral which would hold wild horses captured by the Bureau of Land Management, which would pay the company for every day a horse is held. The horses would stay for a year or two before being adopted or transferred to an off-range pasture with more room, said Jason Lutterman, a spokesman for the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program.

Family hopeful missing cousins on Pine Ridge will be found

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Family members remain hopeful that two cousins missing on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation for more than a month will be found soon.

Robert "RJ" Kills Enemy Jr., 23, and Vincent "Stevie" Little Dog, 25, were last seen around 11 p.m. on Dec. 27 north of Manderson after a police officer pulled up to them and a third person. The group took off running and the officer chased after them but eventually had to return for other calls for service. While the third person made it to safety, Kills Enemy and Little Dog remain missing despite widespread searches.

"Oh my God, we're losing it. I cry every day," said Willene Kills Enemy, mother of Kills Enemy and aunt of Little Dog.

"We're not going to give up the search. We're going to continue the search until those boys come home," their uncle, Garfield Steele, told the Rapid City Journal.

Family members say searchers have found clothing belonging to the cousins. Robert Ecoffey, the chief of the Oglala Sioux Tribe's Department of Public Safety, said the clothing has been sent for forensic testing to see if it belongs to the cousins.

"Nothing indicates any foul play," Ecoffey said.

China opens virus hospital, market plunges as toll grows

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China sent medical workers and equipment to a new hospital built in 10 days, infused cash into tumbling financial markets and further restricted people's movement in sweeping new steps Monday to contain a rapidly spreading virus and its escalating impact.

Health authorities released updated figures of 361 deaths and 17,205 confirmed cases, an increase of 2,829 over a 24-hour period, as other countries continued evacuating citizens from hardest-hit Hubei province and restricted the entry of Chinese or people who recently traveled in the country. The World Health Organization said the number of cases will keep growing because tests are pending on thousands of suspected cases.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, presiding over a special meeting of the country's top Communist Party body for the second time since the crisis started, said "we have launched a people's war of prevention of the epidemic."

He told the Politburo standing committee that the country must race against time to curb the spread of the epidemic and that those who neglect their duties will be punished. His speech was read by an anchor on the major evening news program of state broadcaster CCTV.

Reopening of schools was also delayed to keep the virus from spreading further in Hubei, where the 1,000-bed hospital in the provincial capital Wuhan was completed in just 10 days. A second hospital with 1,500 beds will open within days. Restrictions were tightened still further in one city by allowing only one family member to venture out to buy supplies every other day.

Medical teams from the People's Liberation Army were arriving in Wuhan to relieve overwhelmed health workers and to work at the new hospital, located in the countryside far from the city center. Its prefabricated wards, where patients began arriving by late morning, are equipped with state-of-the-art medical

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equipment and ventilation systems.

Leading Chinese epidemiologist Zhong Nanshan said additional hospital space was crucial to stopping the spread of new infections.

"The lack of hospital rooms forced sick people to return home, which is extremely dangerous. So having additional (beds) available is a great improvement," Zhong told state broadcaster CCTV.

Zhong played a major role in overcoming China's 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS, a coronavirus from the same family as the current pathogen.

In a sign of the economic toll of the outbreak, China's Shanghai Composite index plunged nearly 8% on the first day of trading after the Lunar New Year holiday. That despite a central bank announcement Sunday that it was putting 1.2 trillion yuan (\$173 billion) into the markets.

"We are fully confident in and capable of minimizing the epidemic's impact on economy," said Lian Weiliang, deputy chief of the National Development and Reform Commission, at a news conference in Beijing.

Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, announced Monday that the semi-autonomous territory will shut almost all land and sea border control points to the mainland from midnight to stem the spread of the virus. She said only two border checkpoints — at Shenzhen Bay and the bridge to Macau and Zhuhai — will remain open.

More than 2,000 hospital workers had gone on strike earlier in the day, demanding a complete closure of the border, and their union has threatened a bigger walkout Tuesday.

Hong Kong has recorded 15 cases of the virus and has cut flights and train and bus connections to the mainland, but a push is growing for it to close the border completely. Strike organizers say about 6,000 medical staff were prepared to participate. Hong Kong was severely impacted by the SARS outbreak, which many believe was intensified by official Chinese secrecy and obfuscation.

South Korea, which has 15 confirmed cases, was quarantining 800 soldiers who had recently visited China, Hong Kong or Macao or had contact with people who had, defense ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyunsoo said. Military service is required of all young South Korean men to guard against the threat from the communist North.

More than 300 Egyptians who were flown home from Wuhan on Sunday were quarantined in a hotel for at least 14 days.

In Beijing, officials sought to reassure the country's 1.4 billion people of adequate supplies of face masks and disinfectant, despite reported shortages in parts of the country.

The Philippines banned the entry of all non-citizens from China after two cases were confirmed there, including the only death outside China. The U.S., Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, New Zealand and Australia have imposed similar restrictions despite criticism from China and WHO's guidance that such measures were unnecessary.

About 150 cases have been reported in two dozen other countries. The Philippine Health Department said a 44-year-old Chinese man from Wuhan died from the virus and his companion remained hospitalized. Vietnam's confirmed cases increased to eight, including 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 U.S. total rose to 11, mostly involving recent travel to Wuhan. The U.S. said Sunday that Americans who had traveled in China within the last 14 days would be routed to designated airports for enhanced health screenings and most non-Americans who recently were in China would be denied entry.

At an online briefing, foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying accused the U.S. of overreacting, acting against WHO advice and "spreading fear."

"The U.S. government hasn't provided any substantial assistance to us, but it was the first to evacuate personnel from its consulate in Wuhan, the first to suggest partial withdrawal of its embassy staff, and the first to impose a travel ban on Chinese travelers," Hua said.

Amid accusations of a slow official response to the outbreak, six officials in the city of Huanggang, next to Wuhan in Hubei province, were 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

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inadequate and there is a severe shortage in medical supplies such as protective suits and medical masks.”

At the same time, the head of the World Health Organization said Monday in Geneva that it was working with Google to ensure that searches about the new virus turned up information from the U.N. health agency first, part of efforts to fight “rumors and misinformation” about the outbreak.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told the opening of WHO’s executive board meeting that social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Tencent and TikTok “have also taken steps to limit the spread of misinformation.”

With no end to the outbreak in sight, authorities in Hubei and elsewhere extended the Lunar New Year holiday break, due to end this week, well into February to try to keep people at home and reduce the spread of the virus. All Hubei schools are postponing the start of the new semester until further notice.

The trading and manufacturing center of Wenzhou, with nearly 10 million people in coastal Zhejiang province, confined people to their homes, allowing only one family member to venture out every other day to buy necessary supplies. Huanggang, home to 7 million people, imposed similar measures on Saturday.

With more countries imposing restrictions on travelers from China, and reports of discrimination against Chinese abroad, the country’s diplomats began speaking out.

Chinese ambassador in Sri Lanka Cheng Xueyuan expressed worries over Chinese people being turned away by restaurants and taxis in the Indian Ocean island nation.

“We understand the concerns of (the) Sri Lanka public but we at the same time hope that they could feel China’s responsible attitude and see the forceful and effective measures taken by China,” Cheng said.

The crisis is the latest to confront Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who has been beset by months of anti-government protests in Hong Kong, the reelection of Taiwan’s pro-independence president and criticism over human rights violations in the traditionally Muslim territory of Xinjiang. Meanwhile, the domestic economy continues to slow, weighed down by slowing demand and the trade war with Washington.

Associated Press writers Bharatha Malawaraarachchi in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and Jamey Keaten in Geneva contributed to this report.

Dems kick off Iowa caucuses amid worry over beating Trump

By STEVE PEOPLES, THOMAS BEAUMONT and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A Democratic campaign that has cost more than \$1 billion, dashed the ambitions of veteran politicians, forced conversations about race, gender and identity and prompted fierce debate over health care and taxes crests Monday in the Iowa caucuses.

By day’s end, tens of thousands of Democrats will have participated in the famed Iowa caucuses, the premiere of more than 50 contests that will unfold over the next five months. The caucuses will render the first verdict on who among dozens of candidates is best positioned to take on President Donald Trump, whom Democratic voters are desperate to beat this fall.

It is a moment thick with promise for a Democratic Party that has seized major gains since Trump won the White House in 2016. But instead of optimism, a cloud of uncertainty and deepening intraparty resentment hangs over Monday’s election, which, after a multi-year buildup, will finally begin to reveal who and what Democrats stand for in this tumultuous era.

“If anybody tells you they know who’s going to win, either they’ve got a whisper from God or they’re loony, because nobody knows,” said Deidre DeJear, the former state chair for Kamala Harris and the first black woman to win a statewide primary in Iowa.

Polls suggest that Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders may have a narrow lead, but any of the top four candidates — Sanders, former Vice President Joe Biden, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg — could score victory in Iowa’s unpredictable and quirky caucus system as organizers prepare for record turnout. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who represents neighboring Minnesota, is also claiming momentum, while outsider candidates such as entrepreneur Andrew Yang, billionaire activist Tom Steyer and Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard could be factors.

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Iowa offers just a tiny percentage of the delegates needed to win the nomination but plays an outsize role in culling primary fields. A poor showing in Iowa could cause a front-runner's fundraising to slow and support in later states to dwindle, while a strong result can give a candidate much needed momentum that propels him or her to the nomination.

The past several Democrats who won the Iowa caucuses went on to clinch the party's nomination.

The 2020 fight has played out over myriad distractions, particularly congressional Democrats' push to impeach Trump, which has often overshadowed the primary and effectively pinned several leading candidates to Washington at the pinnacle of the early campaign season. Even on caucus day, Sanders, Warren and Klobuchar were expected to spend several hours on Capitol Hill for impeachment-related business.

Meanwhile, New York ultra-billionaire former Mayor Mike Bloomberg is running a parallel campaign that ignores Iowa as he prepares to pounce on any perceived weaknesses in the field come March.

The amalgam of oddities, including new rules for reporting the already complicated caucus results, is building toward what could be a murky Iowa finale before the race pivots quickly to New Hampshire, which votes just eight days later.

With uncertainty comes opportunity for campaigns desperate for momentum. The expectations game was raging in the hours before voters began gathering at high school gyms and community centers in more than 1,600 caucus sites across the state.

Having predicted victory multiple times in recent weeks, Biden's team sought to downplay the importance of Iowa's kick-off contest the day before voting began amid persistent signs that the 77-year-old lifelong politician was struggling to raise money or generate excitement on the ground.

Biden senior adviser Symone Sanders said the campaign viewed Iowa "as the beginning, not the end," of the primary process.

"It would be a gross mistake on the part of reporters, voters or anyone else to view whatever happens on Monday — we think it's going to be close — but view whatever happens as the end and not give credence and space for New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina," she said of the three states up next on the primary calendar.

The tone was noticeably more upbeat for Bernie Sanders' campaign, which has repeatedly predicted victory and believes he's running even stronger in New Hampshire. That's despite increasingly vocal concerns from establishment-minded Democrats who fear the self-described democratic socialist would struggle against Trump and make it more difficult for Democrats to win other elections this fall.

In a fundraising message, Sanders campaign manager Faiz Shakir warned supporters to expect "an absolutely huge barrage of attacks from the political establishment" after Monday's results are announced, implying again that Sanders would finish on top.

"We don't know how personal the attacks will be. We don't know how many millions will be spent. And we certainly won't know who's funding them until well after the damage is done," he said. "But we know they'll come. Because they want to stop Bernie. They want to stop our movement."

The heated rhetoric underscores a dangerous rift between Sanders' passionate supporters and other factions of Democrats who have clashed in recent days but must find a way unite should they hope to defeat Trump in November.

Joe Trippi, campaign manager for 2004 presidential candidate Howard Dean, suggested that Sanders may have peaked too soon, forcing some voters to seek a less controversial standard bearer.

"There are a lot of reasons this thing moves hard at the end," Trippi predicted. "I think Bernie going into the lead is really kind of the disruptive thing that's going to make a lot of people look at who they are for."

New party rules may give Sanders and his rivals an opportunity to claim victory, even if they aren't the official winner.

For the first time, the Iowa Democratic Party will report three sets of results at the end of the night: tallies of the "first alignment" of caucus-goers, their "final alignment" and the total number of state delegate equivalents each candidate receives. There is no guarantee that all three will show the same winner.

The Associated Press will declare a winner based on the number of state delegates each candidate wins,

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which has been the traditional standard.

While Sanders and Biden are central figures in the race, Warren and Buttigieg are fighting to prove they can assemble the coalition required to win the nomination as well.

Warren, who has leaned into her status as one of the only female candidates in recent weeks, was offering free child care for voters at some caucus locations as her campaign used every available tool — even online dating apps — to court supporters.

Buttigieg, a 38-year-old former city official who had virtually no national profile a year ago, walked into Monday as a legitimate threat to win the nomination. In fact, he predicted victory as he faced a frenetic audience of more than 2,000 at a high school gymnasium the day before the caucus.

“It is difficult to believe how far we’ve come from a year ago when we first turned up at a coffee shop in Ames, thrilled because there were literally dozens of people there —although most of them were there to get a cup of coffee,” Buttigieg reminisced.

He continued: “We are now just one day away from victory in the Iowa caucuses.”

Though most of the attention will be on Democrats, Republicans will also hold caucuses on Monday. With no serious challenger and plenty of money to burn, Trump’s reelection team hopes to use voting in early states as a test run for its organizing prowess and to boost excitement for the president’s fall campaign. Trump held a rally in Iowa last week and dispatched surrogates to the state ahead of Monday’s vote.

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

6 Turkish troops, 13 Syrian soldiers killed in north Syria

By SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey hit targets in northern Syria, responding to shelling by Syrian government forces that killed at least six Turkish military personnel, the Turkish president said Monday. A Syrian war monitor said 13 Syrian troops were also killed.

Also, Syrian activists said airstrikes in the country’s northern, rebel-held region killed at least nine civilians on Monday.

The exchange between Ankara and Damascus came hours after a large Turkish military convoy entered the northwestern province of Idlib, the last rebel stronghold in Syria. It is likely to further increase tensions between the two neighboring countries as such direct clashes have been rare and could also cause friction between Moscow and Ankara, which have sought to coordinate their actions in Syria.

Earlier, Turkey’s National Defense Ministry said the Turkish forces were sent to Idlib as reinforcement and were attacked there despite prior notification of their coordinates to the local authorities. It said Turkish forces responded to the attack, destroying targets. Four Turkish soldiers died at the scene while another soldier and a Turkish civilian member of the military personnel died later in hospital. Seven Turkish troops were wounded.

Speaking to reporters before departing for a visit to Ukraine, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkish artillery hit some 46 targets in Syria. Erdogan said Turkish warplanes were also involved and claimed that there were between 30 and 35 casualties on the Syrian side but offered no evidence.

“Those who test Turkey’s determination with such vile attacks will understand their mistake,” Erdogan said. He said Russia was told that Ankara would not stand for any “situation where we are prevented” from responding to Syrian assaults.

“It is not possible for us to remain silent when our soldiers are being martyred,” Erdogan said.

The deaths were one of the highest single-day tolls for Turkish troops in Syria — Ankara has lost scores of military personnel in the Syrian war.

Turkey’s Defence Minister Hulusi Akar immediately traveled to the Turkey-Syrian border to assure the troops. “Our people should know that the necessary has been done and will continue to be done,” he said upon arrival.

The exchange occurred near the Syrian flashpoint town of Saraqeb, according to the the Britain-based

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Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitoring group. It added that Turkish troops shelled Syrian army positions in three provinces, killing eight soldiers in Idlib, three in Latakia province and two in the Hama region.

However, Syria's state news agency SANA said government forces captured two new villages on the way to Saraqeb. It added that as Syrian troops were chasing insurgents, four Turkish soldiers were killed and nine wounded triggering a Turkish retaliation — but it claimed there were no casualties among Syrian troops.

The Russian Defense Ministry said Turkey had failed to notify the Russian military about troop movements overnight in Idlib and that the Turkish troops got hit by Syrian fire that was directed at "terrorists" — a reference to al-Qaida-linked militants — west of Saraqeb.

The Russian military, which controls the airspace over Idlib province, said the Turkish aircraft never entered Syria's airspace during Monday's attack. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Russian military remains in "constant contact" with Turkish counterparts in Syria.

The escalation comes amid a Syrian government offensive into the country's last rebel stronghold, located in Idlib and parts of the nearby Aleppo region. Turkish troops are deployed in some of those rebel-held areas to monitor an earlier cease-fire that was agreed to but that has since collapsed.

Relations between Turkey and Syria have deteriorated sharply since Syria's civil war began in 2011. Syria accuses Turkey of undermining its security by allowing thousands of foreign fighters to come battle the Syrian army. Idlib province is currently dominated by al-Qaida-linked militants.

With Russian backing, the Syria government has been on the offensive since December to capture and reopen a strategic highway held by the rebels since 2012. The offensive ignored a cease-fire deal brokered late last year between Russia and Turkey. The deal has since collapsed.

Syrian government forces captured the key Idlib town of Maaret al-Numan from the rebels last Wednesday, and have now set their sights on Saraqeb. The strategic highway passes through both towns.

Opposition activists did not say who was behind the airstrikes that killed nine civilians in rebel-held parts of northern Syria. The nine were on a minibus carrying people fleeing the violence near the village of Kfar Naha in Aleppo province, according to the Observatory and Baladi news, an activist collective. Four children, three women and two men were killed, according to paramedics.

The province of Idlib is home to some 3 million people, many of them displaced from other parts of Syria in earlier bouts of violence. The United Nations has estimated that about 390,000 Syrians have been displaced there over the past two months — 315,000 in December and 75,000 in January.

Turkey already hosts 3.5 million Syrian refugees, and the current wave of violence in Idlib has raised concerns of a new surge in displaced civilians fleeing toward the Turkish border.

Associated Press writers Bassem Mroue in Beirut, and Vladimir Isachenkov and Daria Litvinova in Moscow contributed to this report.

Iowa in Focus: Democrats open 2020 with hope, anxiety

By The Associated Press undefined

Hopeful but also afraid. Uncertain but still focused. Iowa's Democrats will arrive at their 2020 kickoff caucuses on Monday with a mix of emotions and one urgent mission: voting President Donald Trump out of office in November.

For months, Associated Press journalists have talked to hundreds of Iowa voters, listening to hand-wringing, frustration, enthusiasm and second-guessing. "Chaotic," was the word one voter used to describe the mood surrounding the election. "Concerned" was another popular choice.

Here's a closer look at some of the voters who will weigh in Monday:

KEITH KENNEDY, 62

Keith Kennedy is looking for a change.

"I think with all that's going on, we're about due," he says, summing up the political turmoil of recent

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years with Iowan understatement.

Kennedy's choice is Pete Buttigieg, the 38-year-old former mayor of South Bend, Indiana. Even as he stumbles on pronouncing the candidate's last name, Kennedy says likes what Buttigieg stands for, and thinks he doesn't shy away from questions.

"He's always got an answer for the questions presented to him," Kennedy, a retired musician, said. "He's a good spokesman."

The word that captures how Kennedy feels about the next election, he says, is "optimism."

"I have an opinion about the Republicans that put (Trump) in office," he said. "Now even they're starting to realize 'maybe this wasn't the wisest decision we could have made.'"

RASHANDA HOLTS, 39

Rashanda Holts misses the days when Barack and Michelle Obama were in the White House. The Obamas tried to help black women and women of other races be self-sufficient, the 39-year-old single mom from Marshalltown says.

She believes Sen. Bernie Sanders is the candidate running this year who will do the same, including by raising the minimum wage.

"Most of my big values, things I believe in, he believes in," said Holts, a certified cook who works at McDonalds. "He is for people like me."

Holts doesn't like the way Trump talks, and says the president wants to take away assistance like food stamps and Medicaid.

"(Sanders) wouldn't do that," she added. "He wants us to be working and getting paid an essential amount so that we can be comfortable."

Her thoughts on the upcoming election? "It's a great one."

BRUCE PLINER, 75

Bruce Pliner served in the U.S. Navy from 1963 to 1967, including two years in Vietnam. He skipped the 2016 caucuses before supporting Hillary Clinton in the general election. This year, he's backing former Vice President Joe Biden.

"I just feel like he can hit the ground running," said the 75-year-old from Ankeny, a Des Moines suburb. "I think his experience with the world leaders is very good."

Pliner also believes Biden will protect programs that Republicans want to cut, such as Social Security and Medicare. He thinks cutting them is "wrong, very wrong."

"We need to get rid of Trump," he said. "We gotta get rid of him."

SARA CARSPACKEN, 37

Like a lot of Democratic voters, Sara Carspecken wants a nominee who can defeat Trump. That person, she says, is Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

"I want strong female leadership," the 37-year-old from Fort Dodge said. "I like her plans, I believe that she's strong enough to go after Donald Trump and beat him, and I like what she has to say about going after the big corporations. Something needs to be done about that."

Carspecken, who supported Clinton in 2016, said she can't begin to express her sadness at the way politics have gone since Trump took office.

"I feel that there is a lot at stake and we have to get back on track," she said. "We need more fairness, we need more transparency, and we gotta get back on track to be respectful again."

JEN TOMITA, 43

Jen Tomita has been a Republican all her life. The 43-year-old, who works in banking, caucused for Donald Trump in 2016 and then supported him in the general election. But in January, Tomita changed her party affiliation so she can support Buttigieg on caucus night.

"I just changed over and have my voter registration card now saying that I am a Democrat," the resident of Clive, Iowa, said while attending a Buttigieg event in Des Moines.

Tomita is a veteran and likes that Buttigieg, who served in the Navy Reserve in Afghanistan, is too.

"I think having someone with his skills and talent will be able to get veterans' issues taken a look at" and get better care for veterans, Tomita said.

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She also describes herself as an LGBTQ ally, and said having a gay president will mean more focus on gay rights and equality, and "making sure that there's equal opportunity and that everybody gets the same chance."

MARIO ALBERTO BASURTO, 38

As a father of three daughters, Mario Alberto Basurto says Sanders' support for women's rights, education and ending the gender wage gap resonate with him. Sanders' endorsement from Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, a Latina and a progressive favorite, "for me as a Hispanic is a big motivator," he said.

The 38-year-old mental health therapist from Cedar Falls said he backed Clinton in 2016, and felt like he was "duped."

"It kind of came back to hit us pretty hard that the right choice probably at that time would have been Bernie," he said.

But even as he's settled on his choice, Basurto says he doesn't have the same enthusiasm he's had in past elections.

"It's an anti-Trump vote at the moment," he said. "Whereas with Barack Obama, I felt a little more like he was my inspiration, I don't feel that connection at the current moment with any Democratic candidate."

ELYSE KRIEGEL, 17

This will be the first election when 17-year-old Elyse Kriegel will have a vote, and he says he still has research to do.

The high school student, who also works at a bakery in Pella, Iowa, is able to caucus under Iowa law because he will be 18 by the November general election. Climate change is an issue at top of mind, which Kriegel says has him considering either billionaire Tom Steyer or businessman Andrew Yang.

"I think within the next couple of decades we're going to feel the effects of climate change," Kriegel said. He's also looking for a president who will help low-income families.

"There's so many different candidates with different ... opinions on different things. I just don't know which is the best for this country," he said.

MARY OLDHAM, 27

There are times Mary Oldham has to tell her boyfriend, a "politics fanatic" and Trump fan, to stop talking about him.

The 27-year-old science teacher from Knoxville, Iowa, was never much into politics but says her boyfriend has gotten her thinking: If you don't vote, you don't have a voice. So Oldham is planning to caucus Monday — for a Democrat. That's led to some disagreements on the home front.

"I'm like 'stop, stop, stop,'" Oldham said while getting coffee with her 6-year-old daughter. "We'll be fine if we just don't talk politics."

Oldham is still deciding between Buttigieg, who says things she likes, and Sanders, because she's heard he's leading in the polls.

"I'm more of a person who leads with their heart and I feel like those two are the main guys who really care for humanity I guess I should say," she said.

MIKE FILIPPINI, 66

The choice for retired firefighter Mike Filippini comes down to Biden or Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, another moderate. It's a decision he's reached somewhat through a process of elimination.

Filippini's union, the International Association of Fire Fighters, has endorsed Biden. But the 66-year-old Pella, Iowa, resident has some questions about Biden, and he's thinking Klobuchar might be more electable.

"She's not like the far progressive wing. I think that's too much too fast," he said. "And Buttigieg, he just doesn't do it for me. So, she's the one that's left."

DEMARCUS CARTER, 32

Demarcus Carter decided to support Pete Buttigieg after Christmas dinner with his girlfriend's parents and grandparents, where the family "broke the cardinal rule about not talking politics at dinner."

The 32-year-old from Fort Dodge says the three generations — the older of whom are evangelicals and Republicans — had a heartfelt, in-depth conversation about what worries them, and reached a conclusion:

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"We're all worried about the same things."

Carter, who works as a scientist testing pepperoni recipes, said he realized that Buttigieg may be just the person to connect with evangelicals like his girlfriend's family. Buttigieg speaks freely about his faith, and often says religion doesn't belong to one political party.

"He can reach out to them," said Carter, who will be a precinct captain for Buttigieg. "I see him as the uniter, as a refresh."

MARY ALBRECHT, 51

If Mary Albrecht caucuses as a Democrat on Monday — and that's still a pretty big "if" — there's only one candidate she would support: Andrew Yang.

The 51-year-old from LeMars, Iowa, supported Trump in 2016 but wasn't sure she wanted to admit it.

"I didn't like him but Hillary (Clinton) made me nervous," Albrecht said. "I just felt that she had too many flaws that weren't going to be good either." She considered voting for a third party but ultimately went with Trump and is "not happy about it."

She's afraid she might feel the same way this November — that there won't be "any good options."

"I'm worried," Albrecht said.

JEREMIAH CRAWFORD, 18

Monday will be the first time 18-year-old Jeremiah Crawford is eligible to caucus, and was initially learning toward Rep. Tulsi Gabbard because he likes her positions on foreign policy and that she's a veteran. But after attending a Biden rally in Ankeny this month, Crawford said he'd been persuaded to caucus for the former vice president.

"He did pretty well," Crawford said.

Crawford, who is unemployed, said if he could have voted in 2016 he would have supported Clinton for president because she was more qualified for the job than Trump.

SHEILA SCHMIDT, 69

Sheila Schmidt was with Sanders since 2016 and she'll caucus for him again Monday.

The retired English-as-a-second-language teacher from rural Grinnell backed Clinton in the general election and said her biggest concern this time around is making sure Democrats turn out.

"I think if everybody votes it will go Democrat. I see signs of that and then I just believe it," Schmidt said after attending a rally for Sanders with activist and filmmaker Michael Moore. "It is hard to imagine that more people could be in favor of the person who is now holding the office of president than anybody else who would run against him."

Clinton did win the popular vote over Trump, Schmidt noted.

"As Michael Moore says, he has to really lose it this time."

Time passages: Mahomes leads comeback for the ages for KC

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — They were celebrating the passage of time as much as football at this Super Bowl: 100-year-old war veterans at midfield for the pregame coin flip, a 50-years-young pop diva handling halftime, and, of course, a quarterback who turns 25 this year saving the best part of the show for last.

That quarterback is Patrick Mahomes of the Kansas City Chiefs.

It is easy, especially after the improbable, blink-and-you-miss-it escape act he engineered to win the title Sunday, to say Mahomes — a mobile, dual threat with a rocket arm — is what the perfect quarterback will look like as the NFL gets ready to embark on its second century of football next season.

But what Mahomes did on a cool, crisp evening in South Florida was grounded in the most basic of sports concepts, one that harkens to the days of leather helmets and long bus rides to the games.

"My mindset," Mahomes said, "is always to play and compete to the very end."

And so he did. He injected life into a stymied offense that looked all but done-for, coaxed three touchdowns out of that offense over the short span of 5 minutes, 1 second late in the fourth quarter and pulled out a 31-20 victory over San Francisco in a game that seemed all but lost.

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Three times during this postseason, Mahomes and the Chiefs have trailed by 10 points or more, and all three times they've come back to win by double-digits themselves. That's a first. But even that history-making feat doesn't do justice to what Mahomes pulled off in the final game of the NFL's much-celebrated centennial.

After Mahomes threw the first postseason interception of his three-year-old career — "I hit him right between the '5' and the '4," he said of the pick to linebacker Fred Warner — the 49ers drove 55 methodical yards to take a 20-10 lead.

There was 2:35 left on in the third quarter and the Chiefs, used to buzzing up and down the field to the tune of 51 and 35 points in the two earlier games this postseason, had gained 187 yards and amassed only 136 passing. They had scored a measly touchdown and a field goal and hadn't cracked a single play longer than 19 yards.

"I wasn't feeling good about it at all," said receiver Tyreek Hill, who would soon prove critical in turning around the game. "I told Pat, 'It's 20-10 with seven minutes left — c'mon bro,' And all Pat did, he just told me to believe."

Hill believed. And he started running.

Up against a defense that had allowed a total of eight completions on downfield throws all season, the receiver with track-star speed somehow found a soft spot deep in the 49ers secondary. Mahomes, harassed all night into quick, off-target throws, dropped 13 yards behind the line of scrimmage, surveyed the field — then stepped up and heaved it. The ball dropped soft as a feather into Hill's arms. Four plays later, Kansas City, only moments earlier thinking of concession speeches, was within three points.

There was 6:13 left in the game.

"I'm not sure exactly what happened," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said, when asked to reflect on the play that swung the momentum.

Rarely has a game turned so rapidly. Rarely has a team still behind on the scoreboard seemed so destined to win.

It all happened so fast, in fact, that everything before it felt like a mirage.

Hours earlier, to celebrate its 100th year, the NFL brought four centenarian World War II veterans to midfield to preside over the pregame coin flip. Halftime featured a hip-shaking, pole-climbing celebration of Latina heritage, courtesy of 43-year-old Shakira and Jennifer Lopez, who hardly looked like the 50-year-old she is — where has the time gone?

Chiefs fans had been asking the same question for a while now.

It had been 50 years since their team last appeared in, and won, the Super Bowl. Mahomes, the quarterback who coach Andy Reid handpicked and traded away draft picks to get, was supposed to change all that.

But when the smoke cleared from J-Lo and the third quarter started, he was no better.

"We knew it would be a close game, and there would be some challenges," Reid said. "He kept firing. That's what he did. The guys around him just believed in him. We all did."

After the touchdown that made it 20-17, it took all of three plays for the Chiefs defense to get the ball back to Mahomes.

On the next possession, he struck for another long play — this one to receiver Sammy Watkins who torched the 49ers premier defensive back, Richard Sherman, at the line of scrimmage and got behind him for the easiest 38-yard catch he'll ever make. Three plays later, it was 24-20.

Less than 90 seconds after that, it was 31-20, and long-suffering Kansas City had won the Super Bowl.

It didn't take long for the questions to start coming about a young team with a young quarterback and a grizzled old coach in Reid who thinks young: Could this be the first of many?

"I mean, obviously, I've had a great start to my career," said Mahomes, who finished with 286 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions, in flicking it away.

Does he see himself as the new face of the NFL?

"There are a lot of young quarterbacks, and still a lot of veteran guys that are playing at a very high

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level," he said. "So, I just try to be the best Patrick Mahomes I can be."

Which, as the Niners, the NFL and the entire Super Bowl-viewing audience discovered Sunday night, was certainly good enough.

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

Bernie Ebbers, ex-CEO convicted in WorldCom scandal, dies

By MALLIKA SEN Associated Press

The former chief of WorldCom, convicted in one of the largest corporate accounting scandals in U.S. history, died just over a month after his early release from prison. Bernard Ebbers was 78.

The Canadian-born former telecommunications executive died Sunday in Brookhaven, Mississippi, surrounded by his family, according to a family statement.

WorldCom Inc. collapsed and went into bankruptcy in 2002, following revelations of an \$11 billion accounting fraud that included pressure by top executives on subordinates to inflate numbers to make the company seem more profitable. The collapse caused losses to stockholders, including those who had invested through retirement plans.

Ebbers was convicted in New York in 2005 on securities fraud and other charges and received a 25-year sentence. A federal appeals court judge who upheld Ebbers' conviction in 2006 wrote that WorldCom's fraudulent accounting practices were "specifically intended to create a false picture of profitability even for professional analysts that, in Ebbers' case, was motivated by his personal financial circumstances."

Before establishing himself in telecommunications, Ebbers had a diverse career that started in sports. He received a basketball scholarship at Mississippi College, where he majored in physical education. After graduating, he coached high school teams for a year before investing in a hotel; he eventually amassed a chain of Best Westerns in Mississippi and Texas, as well as a car dealership in Columbia, Mississippi.

Following the advice of friends and knowing little about the phone business, he invested in a small long-distance company, LDDS, in 1983. He eventually took over the day-to-day operations and bought up competitors, transforming LDDS — which was later renamed WorldCom, based in Clinton, Mississippi — into the fourth-largest long-distance company by 1996.

He was considered to be a "no-nonsense" man with a brash attitude who preferred jeans to a suit. One analyst cited in an early profile in the late nineties said Bernie Ebbers was "the telephone equivalent of Bill Gates."

By the time of its collapse over its accounting fraud scandal in 2002, WorldCom was the nation's second-largest long-distance business. Ebbers left that year and following his conviction, was imprisoned from September 2006 until Dec. 21, when he was released from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

In the meantime, WorldCom reemerged as MCI, taken over by Verizon, and relocated to Ashburn, Virginia.

U.S. District Judge Valerie E. Caproni said late last year that it fell within her discretion to order the early release of Ebbers after a lawyer cited severe medical problems and said that Ebbers had experienced severe weight loss. At over 6 feet tall, he had dropped in weight from above 200 pounds to 147 pounds. Attorney Graham Carner told the judge it was possible his client might not live another 18 months.

Among other ailments, Ebbers had heart disease, Carner said. Ebbers was not in court when Caproni announced her ruling on Dec. 18; his lawyers said he was hospitalized.

"While Mr. Ebbers is physically alive ... his quality of life is gone," Carner said in December. "If he was released today, Mr. Ebbers is not going to be playing tennis or running a business."

In court papers in September, his lawyers said Ebbers unintentionally bumped into another prisoner while walking in the facility in September of 2017, only to have the prisoner go to Ebbers' open cell later in the day and physically attack him.

The papers said the attack fractured the bones around Ebbers' eyes and caused blunt head trauma and other injuries. They also said Ebbers was put into solitary confinement because his "severely limited eyesight" made him unable to identify the attacker.

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In July 2019, one of Ebbers' daughters submitted a request that her father receive compassionate release from a federal prison medical facility in Fort Worth, Texas. Court papers say a Bureau of Prisons official denied that request in August. The family statement said that the Bureau of Prisons "had no diagnosis or treatment plan in place" and Ebbers experienced a "rapid decline" in October, followed by multiple hospitalizations in November and December.

While prosecutors agreed that Ebbers' health had deteriorated in prison, they opposed an early release. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Cowley told the judge that such a move would send "a terrible message to the rule of law" because it would cut Ebbers' sentence in half.

The family statement acknowledged resistance to Ebbers' early release from victims of WorldCom's collapse, but said that many victims also expressed their support.

"Many stockholders and employees lost their investments in the fall of WorldCom. Many of our friends — and many in our family — did too," the statement read. "Thankfully, Judge Caproni agreed with us — keeping Dad in prison, especially in his unexplained and undiagnosed deteriorated condition, would not bring back anyone's investments."

The family said they would pray for the victims. The statement, which repeatedly praised Caproni, said family members plan to eventually advocate for others "who are deserving of compassionate release to their families."

Sen reported from New York.

Ukraine: Recordings show Iran knew jetliner hit by a missile

By YURAS KARMANAU and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A leaked recording of an exchange between an Iranian air-traffic controller and an Iranian pilot purports to show that authorities immediately knew a missile had downed a Ukrainian jetliner after takeoff from Tehran, killing all 176 people aboard, despite days of denials by the Islamic Republic.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy acknowledged the recording's authenticity in a report aired by a Ukrainian television channel on Sunday night.

In Tehran on Monday, the head of the Iranian investigation team, Hassan Rezaeifar, acknowledged the recording was legitimate and said that it was handed over to Ukrainian officials.

After the Jan. 8 disaster, Iran's civilian government maintained for days that it didn't know the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, answerable only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had shot down the aircraft. The downing of the jetliner came just hours after the Guard launched a ballistic missile attack on Iraqi bases housing U.S. forces in retaliation for an earlier American drone strike that killed the Guard's top general, Qassem Soleimani, in Baghdad.

A transcript of the recording, published by Ukrainian 1+1 TV channel, contains a conversation in Farsi between an air-traffic controller and a pilot reportedly flying a Fokker 100 jet for Iran's Aseman Airlines from Iran's southern city of Shiraz to Tehran.

"A series of lights like ... yes, it is a missile, is there something?" the pilot calls out to the controller.

"No, how many miles? Where?" the controller asks.

The pilot responds that he saw the light by the Payam airport, near where the Guard's Tor M-1 anti-aircraft missile was launched from. The controller says nothing has been reported to them, but the pilot remains insistent.

"It is the light of a missile," the pilot says.

"Don't you see anything anymore?" the controller asks.

"Dear engineer, it was an explosion. We saw a very big light there, I don't really know what it was," the pilot responds.

The controller then tries to contact the Ukrainian jetliner, but unsuccessfully.

Publicly accessible flight-tracking radar information suggests the Aseman Airlines aircraft, flight No. 3768, was close enough to Tehran to see the blast.

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Iranian civil aviation authorities for days insisted it wasn't a missile that brought down the plane, even after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and U.S. officials began saying they believed it had been shot down.

Iranian officials should have immediately had access to the air-traffic control recordings and Zelenskiy told 1+1 that "the recording, indeed, shows that the Iranian side knew from the start that our plane was shot down by a missile, they were aware of this at the moment of the shooting."

Ukraine's president repeated his demands to decode the plane's flight recorders in Kyiv — something Iranian officials had promised last month but later backtracked on. On Monday, Ukrainian investigators were to travel to Tehran to participate in the decoding effort, but Zelenskiy insisted on bringing the so-called "black boxes" back to Kyiv.

"It is very important for us," he said.

Iranian authorities, however, condemned the publication of the recording as "unprofessional," saying it was part of a confidential report.

"This action by the Ukrainians makes us not want to give them any more evidence," said Rezaifar, the head of the Iranian investigators, according to a report by the semiofficial Mehr news agency.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writers Daria Litvinova in Moscow and Nasser Karimi in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that Payam is an airport, not a city.

UK's Johnson talks tough on trade; EU demands fishing rights

By JILL LAWLESS and RAF CASERT Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Union negotiator Michel Barnier set out tough opening gambits Monday in negotiating a future trade deal, making it clear that each side is willing to walk away without deal rather than compromise on key issues.

Just three days after Britain left the EU, the first country ever to do so, Johnson is digging in his heels about future relations. In a speech Monday to business leaders and international diplomats in London, Johnson says "we want a free trade agreement" but not at any cost.

"The choice is emphatically not 'deal or no-deal,'" Johnson said, according to extracts of his speech. "The question is whether we agree a trading relationship with the EU comparable to Canada's — or more like Australia's."

Australian-style trade would mean a panoply of new tariffs and other barriers between the U.K. and the EU, its near neighbor and biggest trading partner.

Barnier was equally emphatic that the EU's 27 remaining nations would not agree to any British trade deal just to avoid a costly, chaotic no-deal end to the transition period at the end of the year. He said the EU will link any access to its market for British products directly to the access that EU boats are given to U.K. waters.

"We are in favor of free trade but we are not going to be naive," said Barnier. "If the request is to have broad access to a market of 450 European consumers, zero tariffs, zero quotas. That won't happen for nothing, or in any kind of condition."

Barnier rued the short transition of only 11 months to get a comprehensive deal and said the EU will continue to prepare for a no-deal. "If we cannot manage by the end of the year, there will be a widespread cliff," Barnier said.

He said it was "in the interest of U.K. fishermen and and European fishermen to have reciprocal access to our territorial waters and our markets."

"That agreement on fisheries will be inextricably linked to the trade agreement," he said.

In their divorce agreement, Britain and the EU agreed to strike an "ambitious, broad, deep and flexible partnership," including a free trade deal and agreements for security and other areas. They gave them-

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selves 11 months to do it. A post-Brexit "transition period," in which relations stay essentially unchanged, runs until the end of 2020. For the rest of this year the U.K. will continue to follow EU rules, although it will no longer have a say in EU decision-making.

Britain says it wants a "Canada-style" free trade agreement with the EU covering both goods and services. But it is adamant it won't agree to follow the EU's entire rule book in return for unfettered trade, because it wants to be free to diverge in order to strike other new deals around the world.

The bloc insists there can be no trade deal unless Britain agrees to a "level playing field" and does not undercut EU regulations, especially in areas of environmental protections, worker rights and health and safety standards.

Johnson doubled down on Britain's tough stance.

The prime minister chose to deliver his speech in the Painted Hall at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich on the River Thames, a spot steeped in Britain's past military glories. The vast hall, covered in paintings glorifying British achievement, is where Adm. Horatio Nelson lay in state after his death at the Battle of Trafalgar against the navies of France and Spain in 1805.

"There is no need for a free trade agreement to involve accepting EU rules on competition policy, subsidies, social protection, the environment, or anything similar, any more than the EU should be obliged to accept U.K. rules," he said. "The U.K. will maintain the highest standards in these areas — better, in many respects, than those of the EU — without the compulsion of a treaty. And it is vital to stress this now."

It's a message aimed as much at a domestic audience as it is at the bloc, but EU leaders are unlikely to be impressed by what they'll see as British intransigence and wishful thinking.

Formal trade talks won't start until next month, once they have been approved by the remaining 27 EU nations.

EU leaders have repeatedly warned that the timetable is tight to strike any kind of deal. Free-trade agreements typically take years. The EU-Canada deal that the British government cites as a model took seven years to negotiate.

If there is no deal by the end of 2020, and the U.K. refuses to extend the negotiating period, Britain faces an abrupt, disruptive economic break from the bloc — with tariffs and other obstacles to trade imposed immediately between the U.K. and the EU.

That prospect alarms many businesses, especially in sectors such as the auto industry, which depend on the easy flow of parts across borders.

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

UK to announce new rules for militants after street stabbing

By **DANICA KIRKA** Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The British government plans to announce new rules for the imprisonment of convicted terrorists after an Islamic militant who was recently released from prison stabbed two people in south London, the second such attack in less than three months.

Home Secretary Priti Patel, who is in charge of the police, said the government would release its plans Monday. Following Sunday's attack and a Nov. 29 attack in which two people were killed in central London, the government said it would effectively stop the early release of convicted extremists, double terror sentences and overhaul the conditions under which they are released back into the community.

The government will be "announcing some fundamental changes, in addition to what we've already said, that we will do to deal with counter-terrorism and counter-terrorist offenders," Patel said late Sunday.

A man police identified as 20-year-old Sudesh Amman strapped on a fake bomb and stabbed two people on a busy London street Sunday before being shot to death by police.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi said Amman had been convicted of publishing graphic terrorist videos online and had stockpiled instructions on bomb making and knife attacks. Police on Monday continued to search a hostel where Amman had moved into less than two weeks ago.

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Officers had been trailing Amman at the time of Sunday's attack, D'Orsi said, but were unable to head off the bloodshed in the commercial and residential south London neighborhood of Streatham, where Amman struck outside a major pharmacy on a busy shopping afternoon.

The incident in London recalled a November stabbing attack carried out by another man who had served prison time for terrorism offenses. Two people were killed in that attack.

Counter-terrorism officials have warned of the threat posed by militants unless the government couples prison sentences with effective de-radicalization programs. More than 70 people convicted of terror offenses have been released in Britain after serving time in prison and more than 200 others are currently in prison convicted of terrorist offences.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said Sunday's attack was clearly foreseeable in the wake of the London Bridge murders.

"One of the questions I've got for the government is what are we doing about those 70-odd people who have been released from prison?" he asked.

The former head of UK counter-terrorism policing, Mark Rowley, told the BBC there was some logic in giving convicted militants indeterminate prison sentences.

"One of the challenges for the prime minister and his team is how much he can look back and amend the rules for people already serving sentences," he said. "Legally that's very, very difficult. But if there are many, many coming out on regimes that we no longer think work, is it possible to change that?"

Rowley said unless current law was changed "police and security services are going to have many, many more cases that they are prioritizing."

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. WHO WILL WIN 2020's FIRST DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Polls suggest that Bernie Sanders may have a narrow lead, but any of the top four candidates — Sanders, Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren and Pete Buttigieg — could score victory in Iowa's unpredictable and quirky caucus system as organizers prepare for record turnout on Monday.

2. VIRUS DEATH TOLL RISES TO OVER 360 IN CHINA

China built a hospital in 10 days, infused cash into financial markets and further restricted people's movement to contain a rapidly spreading virus and its escalating impact, which so far has resulted in 361 deaths.

3. MAHOMES RALLIES CHIEFS PAST 49ERS IN SUPER BOWL

After falling behind by double digits, the Kansas City quarterback led two late touchdown drives for a 31-20 win for the championship.

4. WHAT'S NEXT IN TRUMP'S IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

Senators are all-but-certain to acquit the president on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress when the vote on Wednesday.

5. AFTER ATTACK, UK RETHINKING RULES FOR FORMER TERROR INMATES

Britain plans to announce new rules for the imprisonment of convicted extremists after an Islamic militant recently released from prison stabbed two people in south London.

6. WHO CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR FLORIDA NAVAL BASE SHOOTING

Al-Qaida's branch in Yemen says it was in communication with an aviation student from Saudi Arabia who carried out last year's deadly shooting at the Naval Air Station Pensacola.

7. THE GOOD & THE BAD & THE OVER-THE-TOP 30 SECONDS ON TV

Advertisers paid as much as \$5.6 million to promote their brands and products on Super Bowl Sunday, as Hyundai and Jeep scored with whimsical humor but Pop Tarts and Hard Rock failed to connect with viewers.

8. WHAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SEEKS ABROAD

Mike Pompeo is calling for authoritarian governments in eastern Europe and Central Asia to ease restrictions on press freedoms despite criticism for his own treatment of journalists at home.

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9. NOW THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

Jennifer Lopez and Shakira infused the Super Bowl halftime show with an exuberance and joy that celebrated their Latina heritage.

10. DISGRACED FORMER CEO DIES

Bernard Ebbers, a former telecommunications executive convicted in one of the largest corporate accounting scandals in U.S. history, has died at 78, just over a month after his early release from prison.

Everything you need to know about the Iowa caucuses

By **ALEXANDRA JAFFE** Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — What are the Iowa caucuses and why do they matter?

They're essentially small local meetings where neighbors and strangers stand up to show their support for a particular candidate, and to persuade others to join them. Iowa's 41 national delegates are up for grabs, but the real stakes for the candidates are all about momentum.

The caucuses are the first opportunity for Democrats to express their preferences in what's been a long and tumultuous primary. They set the tone for the monthlong sprint through the early primary states, after which the field of candidates is typically culled. The winner usually receives a boost in media attention and fundraising that can propel them through subsequent contests. An unexpectedly bad performance, meanwhile, can hobble a candidate.

The caucuses don't always pick the eventual nominee, but for Democrats they've been more predictive — every winner since 2000 has gone on to become the Democratic nominee. And historically, they've been known to catapult underdog candidates' campaigns to prominence — like they did with Barack Obama in 2008, or Jimmy Carter in 1976.

WHERE AND WHEN DO THEY TAKE PLACE — AND WHO PARTICIPATES?

The caucuses begin at 7 p.m. CST on Monday. Democrats gather in school gymnasiums, union halls and community centers — known in caucus parlance as precincts. There are 1,678 precincts in Iowa this year and an additional 99 satellite precincts, which are for caucuses held outside of the state or at different times of the day and in locations that may be more accessible to those with disabilities or those who have to work during the main event.

Some precincts could have hundreds of Iowans show up, and some may have fewer than 10. The 2008 Democratic caucuses set a record when nearly 240,000 Iowans turned out; this year, party operatives are expecting turnout to be big, but likely not record-breaking.

Any registered Democrat who will be 18 by election day can participate, which includes 17-year-olds with an upcoming birthday. And Iowans can newly register or switch their party registration at their caucus site the day of — so campaigns have been courting disaffected Republicans and new voters across Iowa.

WHAT HAPPENS AT A CAUCUS?

There are essentially two rounds of voting in the caucuses.

When all the caucusgoers at a precinct have signed in, the attendees elect a caucus chair, who directs the proceedings. Representatives of the campaigns have an opportunity to stand up and give a last-minute pitch for their candidate, and then the caucuses begin, with a process known as the "first alignment."

That's where attendees gather in the designated area for their favored candidate. In most precincts, any candidate that receives the support of 15% of the people in the room is considered "viable" and moves on to the next round of voting. Caucusgoers who chose a viable candidate on their first round are locked in and can't choose a new candidate on the second.

Supporters of candidates who didn't meet that threshold, however, have four options: They can support a viable candidate, or join with supporters of another non-viable candidate close to 15% support to get them to viability. Alternately, they can try to entice supporters of other non-viable candidates over to theirs to get them over the threshold. Or, they can go home.

This part of the caucuses — known as realignment — is the most crucial, and typically the most chaotic, portion of the night. Well-organized campaigns have volunteers, staffers and surrogates working the

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room, trying to win over caucusgoers from opposing campaigns. It's part of the reason why having staff and surrogates who know their area and have built a community there is so important for the campaigns.

At the end of realignment, the caucus chair takes a final count of the room, and transmits the numbers to the Iowa Democratic Party.

HOW ARE THE RESULTS CALCULATED?

The results in each precinct are used by the Iowa Democratic Party to calculate what's known as the "state delegate equivalent," or how many delegates each candidate gets at the Iowa Democratic Party convention. That number ultimately translates to how many of Iowa's 41 national delegates each candidate gets at the national convention.

HOW ARE THIS YEAR'S CAUCUSES DIFFERENT FROM YEARS PAST?

For the first time, caucusgoers will record their choices on a slip of paper, which they'll sign to certify their support. The caucus leaders will collect those presidential preference cards and turn them into the Iowa Democratic Party, and they'll be used if any candidate requests a recount.

This year, there are only two rounds of alignment, rather than the multiple rounds in years past, and supporters of a viable candidate after the first alignment are locked in to that candidate. In previous caucuses, every attendee could choose a new candidate on each realignment.

The satellite caucuses are new, and the Iowa Democratic Party is allowing attendees to check in early rather than at their precinct site, a move aimed to cut down on the long lines and wait times in years past.

But the biggest change is the change in how the Iowa Democratic Party will report its results. Previously, they only released the state delegate equivalent numbers; now, they're releasing the raw totals from the first and second alignments, as well as the state delegate equivalents.

The Associated Press will be deciding the winner based on state delegate equivalents — but with more data being released, the campaigns have signaled they plan to spin the numbers in their favor, whatever the eventual result.

Built in 10 days, China's virus hospital takes 1st patients

By JOE McDONALD Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The first patients arrived Monday at a 1,000-bed hospital built in 10 days as part of China's sweeping efforts to fight a new virus that is causing global alarm.

Huoshenshan Hospital and a second 1,500-bed facility due to open this week were built by construction crews who are working around the clock in Wuhan, the central city where the outbreak was first detected in December. Some 50 million people are barred from leaving Wuhan and surrounding cities.

The Wuhan treatment centers mark the second time Chinese leaders have responded to a new disease by building specialized hospitals almost overnight. As severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, spread in 2003, a facility in Beijing for patients with that viral disease was constructed in a week.

The first patients arrived at Huoshenshan Hospital at 10 a.m. on Monday, according to state media. They gave no details of the patients' identities or conditions.

The ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, sent 1,400 doctors, nurses and other personnel to staff the Wuhan hospital, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The government said earlier that some have experience fighting SARS and other outbreaks.

The state newspaper Beijing Daily applauded construction workers and suppliers who cut short their Lunar New Year holiday. It hailed the rapid construction as a political triumph, despite complaints leaders in Wuhan endangered the public by failing to respond fast enough to reports of a dangerous new disease.

"Today's Chinese people are more deeply aware: where I stand is my China," the newspaper said. "When this national sense of ownership is awakened, our mentality in the face of disasters becomes more mature."

Authorities have cut most road, rail and air access to Wuhan and surrounding cities, isolating some 50 million people, in efforts to contain the viral outbreak that has sickened more than 17,000 people and killed more than 360.

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Before this week's addition of 2,500 new beds, Wuhan had 6,754 in hospitals designated for virus patients, according to the website TMTpost.com. It said authorities were considering assigning another 2,183 beds to virus cases at the city's other hospitals.

The Huoshenshan Hospital was built by a 7,000-member crew of carpenters, plumbers, electricians and other specialists, according to Xinhua.

About half of the two-story, 60,000-square meter (600,000-square foot) building is isolation wards, according to the government newspaper Yangtze Daily. It has 30 intensive care units.

The name Huoshenshan means God of Fire Mountain. The second hospital, Leishenshan, means God of Thunder Mountain.

Newspapers published day-by-day accounts of crews clearing a riverside plot, laying the foundation, installing sewage and electrical equipment and assembling prefabricated rooms that were shipped to the site.

Photos in state media showed workers in winter clothing, safety helmets and the surgical-style masks worn by millions of Chinese in an attempt to avoid contracting the virus. Trucks were shown arriving in the middle of the night carrying rolls of insulation and other materials.

Doctors can talk with outside experts over a video system that links them to Beijing's PLA General Hospital, according to the Yangtze Daily. It said the system was installed in less than 12 hours by a 20-member "commando team" from Wuhan Telecom Ltd.

The building has specialized ventilation systems and double-sided cabinets that connect patient rooms to hallways and allow hospital staff to deliver supplies without entering the rooms. It is equipped with infrared scanners to warn if any employees show signs of the disease's distinctive fever, the website Economy Net reported, citing the company that provided the technology.

A Chinese company donated "medical robots" to deliver medicines and carry test samples, according to the Shanghai newspaper The Paper.

In other cities, the government has designated hospitals to handle cases of the new virus. In Beijing, the Xiaotangshan Hospital built in 2003 for SARS is being renovated by construction workers. The government has yet to say whether it might be used for patients with the new disease.

Michigan governor to take national stage to rebut Trump

By DAVID EGGERT Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Democrats are putting Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan on the national stage Tuesday to rebut President Donald Trump, elevating a fresh face and casting an election-year spotlight on a swing state in the Midwest as the party looks to win back states Trump narrowly captured.

The 48-year-old's ascendance comes as Democrats hope to solidify gains with female voters and as two men in their late 70s, former Vice President Joe Biden and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, lead national primary polls. Her selection has led to increased speculation that she could be a running mate pick, though she said she is not interested.

Whitmer, who rarely mentions Trump, has advised Democratic presidential candidates that Michigan voters are less focused on his Twitter feed than on the "fundamentals" such as fixing deteriorating roads and helping train people for better-paying jobs. She will return to that theme in her 10-minute response to Trump's State of the Union address.

"These are the fundamentals that people in America are concerned about," Whitmer told The Associated Press, adding that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi "thought I would have a message that would resonate."

Democratic strategist Adrienne Elrod, a senior adviser to Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign, said "it's hard to imagine a better person" to counter Trump.

"Not only did she win the governorship by a wide margin in a key battleground state we lost in 2016 and need to win in 2020, but she is a strong moderate female voice — the perfect contrast to President Trump," she said.

In high school, Whitmer wanted to be an ESPN broadcaster but switched course after an internship at the state Capitol while attending nearby Michigan State University. She went to law school and, after

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working as an attorney, won a House seat in East Lansing.

Whitmer said she will talk about that “incredibly hard time” because it shaped her more than any other. She was caring for her mom, who died months after Whitmer gave birth to the first of two daughters. She also was serving as a freshman lawmaker and battling a health insurer over covering her mother’s chemotherapy.

She was an outspoken advocate for women before the 2017 Women’s Marches and #MeToo era, publicly disclosing during a 2013 legislative debate on health insurance coverage for abortions that she had been raped in college.

After leaving the Legislature due to term limits, Whitmer was appointed to temporarily lead the local prosecutor’s office. She launched her campaign for governor days after the stint ended.

She ran as a pragmatic liberal “fighter,” emphasizing her bipartisan work to expand Medicaid. Her primary opponents — including one endorsed by Sanders — criticized her for not backing “Medicare for All.” She more recently said she supports it “in concept.”

Her dad led a state department under a moderate Republican governor before later leading the large health insurer Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Her mom, a Democrat, was an assistant state attorney general.

“I think she has some strength in the middle,” said Dan Loepp, a friend of Whitmer’s who first met her more than 25 years ago when he was a top legislative aide and she was a staffer. Now the president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield — following Whitmer’s father — Loepp called Whitmer a “reasonable progressive” — someone whom national Democratic leaders that he knows see as articulate, smart and deliberate.

She won all 83 counties in the primary. Her nearly 10-percentage point victory over Trump-backed Republican Bill Schuette in the general election was the largest for a non-incumbent Democratic gubernatorial nominee in Michigan in 86 years.

Michigan’s independent voters were more likely to support Whitmer than Schuette, 53% to 36%, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of the American electorate conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for the AP. Ten percent of Republican voters backed Whitmer, more than the 2% of Democratic voters who supported Schuette. The Kaiser Family Foundation and Cook Political Report’s fall survey said 59% of Michigan’s registered voters approved of the job Whitmer was doing, while 39% disapproved.

Multiple political strategists said Whitmer could climb vice presidential lists given Michigan’s importance, her ability to communicate on TV and social media, and her Midwestern background. Whitmer told the AP she is not seeking the job.

“I have never been drawn to Washington, D.C.,” she said. “My family’s here in Michigan. I love this state and I feel really lucky to have the opportunity to serve as the governor. I’m not looking to join a ticket. But I do want to be a constructive part of making sure I’ve got a great partner in the White House.”

Since taking office, Whitmer has had ups and downs.

She signed GOP-sponsored legislation to reduce high car insurance premiums. But her call for a 45-cents-a-gallon fuel tax hike to fix roads flopped, leading to a protracted budget impasse. The deal-making chops she had run on were dealt a blow. This past week, she said she was “done waiting,” bypassed legislators and announced Michigan will borrow \$3.5 billion to rebuild aging state roads and bridges.

On Tuesday she will be filling a role that for others has proved thankless. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio’s lunge for a water bottle became a meme after he delivered the GOP response in 2013.

“When Speaker Pelosi calls and asks you to do something, you prepare to say yes,” Whitmer said. “The message was pretty clear. She thinks Michigan’s really important.”

John Sellek, who managed Schuette’s losing campaign against Whitmer, said while most State of the Union responses are forgettable, this one also has the feeling of an audition.

“National Democrats know their voters are tiring from the endless slog of the primaries, so their goal here is to give these people a fresh face and a general election message that reminds them they will soon have a nominee and turn the fight to Trump instead of each other,” Sellek said.

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Associated Press writer Hannah Fingerhut in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Eggert on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DavidEggert00>

Super Rally: Mahomes, Chiefs win NFL title with late surge

By BARRY WILNER AP Pro Football Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Patrick Mahomes needed just the waning minutes of Super Bowl 54 to end a whole lot of frustration.

A championship 50 years in the making for the Kansas City Chiefs.

A two-decade wait for an NFL title for coach Andy Reid.

All it took was falling behind by double digits in the postseason, again. Then Mahomes found his mojo. The 24-year-old quarterback who was selected Super Bowl MVP, led the Chiefs to 21 straight points in the final 6:13 for a 31-20 victory Sunday over the San Francisco 49ers.

"We never lost faith," Mahomes said. "That's the biggest thing. Everybody on this team, no one had their head down. We believed in each other. That's what we preached all year long."

The Chiefs (15-4) trailed 24-0 and 17-7 in their previous playoff games, both in the first half. In the big game, they nearly didn't have time for a comeback.

Kansas City's fans in the crowd of 62,417 at Hard Rock Stadium got little opportunity to chant and do the tomahawk chop as KC fell behind 20-10 in the third quarter. Mahomes even threw his second interception of the night after they fell behind.

But the vaunted 49ers defense wilted late and Mahomes brought the magic that makes him so special.

He completed passes of 44 yards to Tyreek Hill and 38 to Sammy Watkins. The touchdowns came on short throws to Travis Kelce to cut the deficit to three and to Damien Williams for the lead. The first NFL title in Reid's two-decade career was clinched by Williams' 38-yard TD run, sending red-clad Chiefs fans into chants of "Andy!" "Andy!"

Reid, 61, won a Super Bowl ring with the 1996 Packers while in charge of tight ends. He's been seeking one as a head coach since being hired by Philadelphia in 1999. The Eagles lost in their only trip to the big game under Reid after the 2004 season.

"This is what it's all about," Reid said as confetti fell and the Chiefs celebrated the climax of the NFL's 100th season. "What a great team, great coaches. Appreciate every bit of it."

Mahomes found Hill, whose bobble led to the second San Francisco pick, for 44 yards on a third-and-15 — the first long pass completed by Kansas City. A 20-yard pass interference call on Tarvarius Moore, who had that earlier pick, put the ball at the 1 and Kelce was wide open for the score.

The Chiefs defense, confounded by the Niners' misdirection much of the game, got stingy and forced a three-and-out. Mahomes soon hit Watkins down the right sideline behind Richard Sherman for a 38-yard gain, leading to Williams' first score.

San Francisco (15-4) had nothing left in the fourth quarter, and its coach, Kyle Shanahan saw yet another late-game meltdown by his team. Three years ago, as offensive coordinator in Atlanta, he was part of the Falcons' Super Bowl collapse and loss in overtime to New England.

"We'll lick our wounds and we'll get over this," Shanahan said.

Kansas City, an original AFL franchise, won the final Super Bowl before the full merger, beating Minnesota in 1970. Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt even coined the phrase Super Bowl.

Now the Hunt family can add a Vince Lombardi Trophy to the Lamar Hunt Trophy earned with the AFC crown.

"It's a beautiful trophy," Chiefs owner Clark Hunt said. "I'm so happy for our players, coaches and fans. And especially Andy Reid. Nobody deserves this trophy more than Andy Reid."

San Francisco went 4-12 in 2018 and Shanahan was on something of a hot seat this season. He came close to a ring once again, but down the stretch the Niners couldn't slow the no-huddle attack at which Mahomes, Hill, Kelce, Williams and all the other Chiefs excel.

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"We have heart," Mahomes said. "We never give up and those guys around us, the leaders on the team, have that mindset that we never give up."

The fourth quarter fireworks by the Chiefs were along the lines of the expected offensive explosion. Earlier, there were some strong drives but not a lot of huge plays.

After a tribute during the pregame ceremony to basketball superstar Kobe Bryant, who died a week ago in a helicopter crash along with eight others, and Pro Football Hall of Famer Chris Doleman, who died Tuesday night of brain cancer, the 49ers used up nearly six minutes on their opening drive, yet got only Robbie Gould's 38-yard field goal. Kansas City took up 7:26 for its next march, including a fourth-and-1 run by Williams on a direct snap to the 49ers 1. All four Chiefs in the backfield spun around before the snap.

Mahomes took it in to end the 15-play series on a run option.

The 7-3 deficit was the first for San Francisco since Game 15. It soon became 10-3 after Jimmy Garoppolo's ill-advised lob under pressure was intercepted by Bashaud Breeland. Another fourth-down gamble paid off for KC, with Williams gaining 3 on a pitchout. But the Chiefs stalled and Harrison Butker kicked a 31-yard field goal.

San Francisco needed a spark and, as it often has this season, the running game provided it. Gouging the Chiefs in the trenches, the 49ers gained 53 yards on five straight rushes before Garoppolo hit on a pair of passes. The second completion, over the middle to Kyle Juszczyk, saw the fullback look like anything but with a nifty open-field move past safety Daniel Sorensen — perhaps Kansas City's best tackle. Juszczyk surged into the end zone for a 15-yard TD to tie it at 10.

Once more, Garoppolo was brilliant on a drive after being picked off. He improved 39 for 42 for 461 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions with a 136.2 rating on such series after the TD.

Gould's 42-yarder gave the Niners their first lead, capping the opening drive of the second half. Again, their misdirection plays kept the Chiefs off-balance on defense.

As Garoppolo did in the first half, Mahomes then threw into heavy coverage trying to hit Hill and was picked by Fred Warner. It was the first interception of Mahomes in five postseason games.

And it paid off with another efficient series for the Niners, keyed by a 26-yard completion to Kendrick Bourne on third down. Raheem Mostert, the star of the NFC title game, surged in from the 1 for a 20-10 edge.

Hardly unfamiliar territory for Kansas City.

"We have an ability as a team not just on offense, as team, to figure out what the other team is doing and put our foot in the ground and say enough is enough," Kelce said. "It's special."

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

Impeachment trial heads to historic end in frenetic week

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's impeachment trial heads toward a historic conclusion this week, with senators all-but-certain to acquit him on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress after narrowly rejecting Democratic demands to summon witnesses.

There's still plenty of drama to unfold before Wednesday's vote.

The vote is expected to cap a months-long investigation spurred by a whistleblower complaint that Trump improperly withheld U.S. military aid from Ukraine in a bid to pressure it to launch investigations into 2020 Democratic rival Joe Biden.

In the Senate, Republicans hold a 53-47 advantage and there's nowhere near the two-thirds needed for conviction and removal. On Friday, Republicans blocked consideration of new witnesses and documents, setting up the speedy acquittal vote for the coming week.

It will be a frenetic next few days.

On Monday, House impeachment managers and Trump's defense team return to the Senate floor to make closing arguments in the trial, the same day the 2020 presidential election kicks off with the first

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votes cast in the Iowa caucuses.

On Tuesday, Trump will deliver his State of the Union address.

Will some Democratic senators join Republicans to acquit Trump, allowing him to claim a bipartisan "exoneration"? Will Trump gloat or express any regret over the Ukraine matter after key GOP senators during the trial criticized his actions as improper, but ultimately not impeachable? Will Wednesday's Senate vote be the final say in the matter?

What to watch as the third impeachment trial in U.S. history heads to a close:

CLOSING ARGUMENTS

The trial resumes at 11 a.m. EST Monday for closing arguments by the two legal teams, with each side getting two hours. After the arguments, the Senate goes back into normal session to allow lawmakers to give speeches about impeachment on the floor from late Monday into Wednesday, before they reconvene as the impeachment court at 4 p.m. Wednesday and vote.

With Trump's acquittal all but assured, one of the biggest questions may be whether any Democrats join with Republicans to clear him of charges. There is strong political significance.

Three Democratic senators hailing from states where Trump remains popular — Doug Jones of Alabama, Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona — remained quiet over the weekend about their intentions.

They were among the 47 Democratic and independent senators who voted unsuccessfully to extend Trump's trial by summoning additional witnesses.

If one or more of the Democratic senators votes to acquit Trump — even voting against one article of impeachment while supporting the other — it could alienate some Democratic voters, mark their legacies and let Trump spend his reelection campaign asserting that he was cleared by a bipartisan vote.

Manchin indicated to reporters Friday he probably won't decide his vote "until walking in" to the chamber on Wednesday.

Jones has said he will announce his decision prior to Wednesday's vote, making sure he gets it "right." Sinema hasn't indicated when she will signal her intentions.

WHAT WILL TRUMP SAY?

Trump gives his State of the Union address on Tuesday night, and with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., perched behind him during his prime-time address, the White House has been coy as to whether Trump will reference the impeachment trial.

Trump "is gratified the Senate will set a schedule for his acquittal as quickly as possible. We do not believe that schedule interferes with his ability to deliver a strong, confident State of the Union," White House aide Eric Ueland said Friday.

A year ago, Trump made no direct reference to his shutdown of government spurred by a dispute with Democrats over border wall funding in the speech he eventually delivered to Congress. He used his address to call for a "new era of cooperation."

Still, there were plenty of subtle digs at the time, including when Trump warned those gathered against pursuing "foolish wars, politics, or ridiculous partisan investigations."

THE FINAL VOTE

It's similarly unclear whether Trump could express regret or remorse over his Ukraine actions, though senators aren't holding their breath.

The vote to convict or acquit Trump is scheduled for 4 p.m. EST Wednesday.

Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee was among several Republicans last Friday who voted to block additional witnesses and draw the trial to a close, even though he and others described Trump's actions as "inappropriate" and "wrong." Asked Sunday if he would want to hear Trump express regret, as President Bill Clinton did after his impeachment trial, Alexander said he doesn't need to hear it.

"What I hope he would do is when he makes his State of the Union address, that he puts this completely behind him, never mentions it, and talks about what he thinks he's done for the country and where we're

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headed," Alexander told NBC's "Meet the Press."

Alexander and other Republicans said that even if Trump committed offenses charged by the House, they are not impeachable — especially in an election year. They say voters should make that determination in November.

That leaves Trump's fate still hanging in the balance.

A NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll released Sunday found majorities of American voters believe that Trump abused his power and obstructed Congress, but split largely among party lines over whether he should be removed from office.

The poll, conducted Jan. 26-29, found 46% of registered voters believed Trump should be removed from office as a result of the trial, vs. 49% who said he should remain — basically unchanged from a 48-48 split in December.

NOT OVER YET?

An acquittal for Trump on Wednesday wouldn't mean the end of the Ukraine matter in other respects.

Both Pelosi and Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff, the lead impeachment manager, haven't ruled out the possibility of compelling former national security adviser John Bolton to testify in the House should Trump be acquitted.

In an unpublished manuscript, Bolton has written that the president asked him during an Oval Office meeting in early May to bolster his effort to get Ukraine to investigate Democrats, according to a person who read the passage and told The Associated Press; Trump denies that. Bolton also wrote that Trump said he wanted to maintain a freeze on military assistance to Ukraine until it aided the political investigations. His book is due out in March. Senators ultimately voted against hearing his testimony.

"This is in the Senate now," Pelosi told reporters last week. "We'll see what happens after that."

Republicans, for their part, aren't pledging to fully close the case, either. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said he planned to call Joe Biden as part of the congressional oversight process into possible corruption in Ukraine.

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

The best and worst of Super Bowl ads

By MAE ANDERSON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — During advertising's biggest night, Super Bowl Sunday, marketers battled it out to bolster their brands and promote new products. Advertisers paid up to \$5.6 million for 30 seconds, and almost 100 million people tune into the big game.

This year, Hyundai and Jeep scored with whimsical humor by poking fun at Boston accents and reuniting the "Groundhog Day" cast, Punxsutawney Phil included. Google struck heartstrings with a quiet message about aging and remembrance. Cheetos and Doritos both played off exaggerated dancing to good effect.

But Pop Tarts and a Hard Rock action-movie commercial failed to connect with viewers.

BEST

HYUNDAI

The automaker released its ad early, but it still drew fans during the game. Boston-affiliated celebrities including actor Chris Evans, John Krasinski, Saturday Night Live alum Rachel Dratch and former Boston Red Sox player David Ortiz discussed a Hyundai feature that lets car owners park remotely with exaggerated accents that make "Smart Park" sound like "smaht pahk."

JEEP

Super Bowl Sunday was on Groundhog Day, so someone had to do it. Fiat Chrysler painstakingly recreated the 1993 movie "Groundhog Day," including the town square and other locales, with original actors Bill Murray, Brian Doyle Murray and Stephen Tobolowsky. The twist: instead of a Chevrolet truck, Murray uses a Jeep Gladiator truck. FCA Group marketing chief Olivier Francois said the ad worked to demonstrate

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the versatility of the Jeep truck since Murray does something different every day.

GOOGLE

Google's 90-second ad stood out by not using humor or celebrities. It features a man reminiscing about his wife, using the Google Assistant feature to pull up old photos of her and past vacations. The ad is set to an instrumental version of "Say Something" by Great Big World. "It's so hard to write earnestly and not make it cheesy," said Julia Neumann, executive creative director at ad agency TBWA(backslash)Chiat(backslash)Day in New York. "This was really, really well done."

CHEETOS

Cheetos used nostalgia effectively, appropriating the 30 year old MC Hammer classic "U Can't Touch This" — still an earworm after all these years. The snack-food ad features a man with bright orange Cheetos dust on his hands who uses it as an excuse not to move furniture and perform office tasks. Hammer himself — "Hammer pants" and all — also kept popping up to utter his iconic catchphrase.

DORITOS

The brand added a silly danceoff to "Old Town Road," the smash hit of the summer by Lil Nas X. In the Western-themed ad, Lil Nas faced off with grizzled character actor Sam Elliott with silly, sometimes CGI-enhanced dances moves at the "Cool Ranch." Billy Cyrus, who features in the song's remix, also made a cameo.

PLANTERS

Planters teased its Super Bowl ad nearly two weeks before the game, releasing a teaser that showed its Mr. Peanut mascot seemingly being killed. The "death" of Mr. Peanut went viral on Twitter. But when Kobe Bryant was killed in a helicopter crash, the marketing stunt suddenly seemed insensitive, so Planters paused its pre-game advertising. The actual Super Bowl ad was relatively inoffensive, with a baby Mr. Peanut appearing at the funeral. "Baby Nut" comparisons to "Baby Yoda" and "Baby Groot" sprung up online.

WORST

AVOCADOS FROM MEXICO

Avocados from Mexico have carved out a niche with humorous ads featuring avocados, but they may have veered a little too far into "random" territory with this effort featuring a home shopping network with fake products such as a baby carrier-like device for avocados. "I thought the Avocados from Mexico spot felt like a random and gratuitous use of celebrity," said Steve Merino, chief creative officer of Aloysius, Butler & Clark in Wilmington, Delaware. "Not only did it not make sense to have Molly Ringwald as your spokesperson, it was also a bit of a distraction."

POP TARTS

Kellogg's went for quirky but ended up with a bland spot that isn't likely to be remembered. In a pseudo infomercial, Jonathan Van Ness of "Queer Eye" describes the new Pop Tarts pretzel snack. The idea is that Pop Tarts adds pizzazz to pretzels, but the ad itself failed to have much spark.

SQUARESPACE

Winona Ryder went back to Winona, Minnesota — which she is named after — to create a website for the town. But nothing much happened in the ad, which shows Ryder in a snowdrift on her laptop being confronted by a " Fargo"-like cop. There's a more involved marketing campaign with Ryder, but the Super Bowl ad didn't communicate much.

HARD ROCK INTERNATIONAL

Hard Rock International went all in on its first Super Bowl ad, maybe too much so. It enlisted Michael Bay for a frenetic commercial showing a frenzied heist caper involving Jennifer Lopez, Alex Rodriguez, DJ Khaled, Pitbull, and Steven Van Zandt — but some found it hard to follow.

Lopez, Shakira in joyful, exuberant halftime show

By DAVID BAUDER AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Seizing their opportunity to make a cultural statement, Jennifer Lopez and Shakira infused the Super Bowl halftime show with an exuberance and joy that celebrated their Latina heritage.

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Their breathless athleticism matched that of the football players waiting in the locker room.

Shakira opened with, yes, a hip-shaking performance of "She Wolf" and a fast-moving medley that included bits of "She Wolf," "Whenever, Wherever" and a snippet of Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir." She managed a belly dance, some rope dancing and even backed into a crowd surf. Shakira ended her with her signature song, "Hips Don't Lie."

Lopez, in a black leather outfit that her dancers matched, started with a nostalgic snippet of "Jenny From the Block." She exhibited some startling pole-dancing moves, a reference to her much-celebrated turn in the movie "Hustlers." At one point she bent into a deep squat while standing on the shoulders of a dancer that likely had muscles aching across the country in sympathy.

She tore through "Love Don't Cost a Thing," "Get Right," "On the Floor" and "Que Calor," finding time to slip away from the black leather in to sparkling silver outfit that left little to the imagination.

Having, essentially, an opening act for a concert that stretches not much longer than a dozen minutes was a risky move. At times the performance seemed rushed, as if they were trying to say too much in too short of time. The guest acts, J. Balvin and Bad Bunny, were superfluous and only served to better emphasize the talents of the headliners.

The first halftime show to celebrate Latino artists could rightly be declared a success, and it also bodes well for the management of Jay-Z, who packaged the program for the first time on a new deal with the NFL.

Memorably, Lopez's daughter, Emme, joined her mother for a verse of "Let's Get Loud," where the 11-year girl sang the chorus of Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the U.S.A." Her mother then held out her arms and showed off a red, white and blue cape to the crowd that was a representation of the Puerto Rican flag in its inner lining, with the stars and stripes on the outside.

It was a reminder to a television audience that approached 100 million that a different part of America was making a powerful statement in favor of inclusion.

The two women came together at the end to sing "Waka Waka (This Time for Africa)," the song Shakira composed that was the theme of the 2010 World Cup.

"Muchas gracias," Shakira said as the camera pulled away.

"Thank you so much," Lopez said.

Super Bowl Ads: Buy a beer for ... a tiny organic farm?

By MAE ANDERSON and MATT O'BRIEN AP Business Writers

Here's the latest on what's happening with ads during the Super Bowl. All times EST.

9:30 p.m.

Another Super Bowl, another head-scratching ad about beer and agriculture.

Last year, it was Bud Light insulting U.S. corn farmers when it made fun of rival brands that use corn syrup in their beers. One of those 2019 ads showed a medieval caravan schlepping a huge barrel of corn syrup to castles owned by Miller and Coors and then boasted that Bud Light doesn't use the ingredient. That led to a rebuke from the National Corn Growers Association.

This year, it was Michelob's turn to make its customers think about beer ingredients. "If every football fan picks up a 6-pack, we can change America's organic farmland forever," says the ad that starts out in a wheat field and pledges that each purchased six-pack of Michelob Ultra Gold will help convert six square feet into organic farmland.

Among the many skeptics who started doing the math after watching that ad was Julie Kenney, Iowa's deputy secretary of agriculture.

"So for Michelob to transition a single acre of crop land to organic, they will have to sell 7260 six packs of beer? Glad beer companies continue to look out for us," she said on Twitter, with her comments followed by a skeptical "thinking face" emoji.

She added: "It would take 2.5 million six packs of Michelob Ultra to convert the average Iowa farm to organic."

Bud Light, for its part, took a break from beer agriculture messages this year to market its hard seltzer.

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And Michelob hedged its bets with a second, more conventional ad featuring Jimmy Fallon.

9 p.m.

The Super Bowl was a chance for tech giants to spread some positive – though not necessarily happy -- vibes about their brands after a year of bipartisan scrutiny from federal and state lawmakers over whether they are abusing their market power.

Google took a tearjerker approach with its ad about an elderly widower recalling memories of his wife using Google's voice assistant and photo album features.

The ad was inspired by one Google employee's grandfather and seemed to make an impression on game viewers – not to mention at least one of the lawmakers scrutinizing the tech giant.

"I watched the #SuperBowl Ad by Google and cried," tweeted U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu, a California Democrat. "Didn't even know an Ad could do that."

It was a somewhat risky approach for Google amid heightened concern over consumer privacy. Despite its poignancy, it depended on viewers not thinking much, or caring, about how Google would be selling ads off what the narrator was searching for on the web.

"Google will remember you after you and all of your family and friends are dead," tweeted actor Joel Heyman.

8:45 p.m.

Just like robots last year, space was a theme adopted by several advertisers.

Walmart showed characters from science fiction movies — Flash Gordon and Buzz Lightyear from "Toy Story," Alex Winter of Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure, aliens from "Mars Attacks" and "Arrival," the starship Enterprise and R2D2 and C3PO from "Star Wars" — to promote the company's store pick-up feature.

In Olay's ad, Katie Couric asked if people are still asking "Is there enough Space for women?" Meanwhile, actresses Busy Philipps and Lilly Singh take a trip into space with actual astronaut Nicole Stott.

And Sodastream had astronauts finding water on Mars, until one expedition member uses it to make seltzer.

Why space? "Maybe because of all of the things going on on earth are bit much at the moment," said Julia Neumann, executive creative director at ad agency TBWA(backslash)Chiat(backslash)Day in New York.

8 p.m.

A tinge of weirdness crept into this year's barrage of humor and celebrities.

Quicken Loans Rocket Mortgage had an unsettling ad that showed "Aquaman" Jason Momoa, known for his buff physique, saying home is a place where he can "be himself," as he strips off his muscles and hair to reveal his "true" physique: skinny and bald. TurboTax tried to tie doing taxes into a CGI-enhanced dance of wobbling knees to a bouncy song, "All People Are Tax People."

Snickers imagined a world where people sing on a hilltop (an homage to a famous "Hilltop" Coke ad) about digging a giant hole and putting a giant Snickers in it because the "world is out of sorts."

And Pringle's enlisted Adult Swim's animated "Rick and Morty" duo with a meta ad in which the characters realize they're stuck inside a Pringles commercial.

7:45 p.m.

Mr Peanut is back. Are you surprised?

In what could become a case study in the perils of Super Bowl marketing stunts, Planters teased its Super Bowl ad nearly two weeks before the game, releasing a teaser for its Super Bowl ad that showed its Mr. Peanut mascot seemingly being killed.

The "death" of Mr. Peanut went viral on Twitter. But when Kobe Bryant was killed in a helicopter crash, the marketing stunt suddenly seemed insensitive, so Planters paused its pre-game advertising.

The actual Super Bowl ad was relatively inoffensive, with a baby Mr. Peanut appearing at the funeral,

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but the pregame stunt is likely what people will remember.

7:30 p.m.

"What's a Quibi?" Viewers might still be asking that after the company's Super Bowl ad, one of the first of the game.

The ad shows a bank heist going awry because the getaway driver is occupied; he says he'll "be there in a Quibi." That's a reference to the upcoming "snackable" video service, which plans to offer episodes of 10 minutes or less. The bank robbers stand around in front of the bank as sirens grow louder; one appears to start watching Quibi himself.

The service, due to launch in April, is heavy on big ideas and Hollywood muscle. But it's a gamble, especially considering that several earlier efforts in mobile entertainment — most notably Verizon's ill-fated Go90 service — fell flat.

It's not clear that Quibi intended the ad to suggest that its service will be so absorbing that watching it can get you in trouble. But it did make clear to viewers how to pronounce the name of the service — it's KWIH-bee.

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Feb. 3, the 34th day of 2020. There are 332 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 3, 1943, during World War II, the U.S. transport ship SS Dorchester, which was carrying troops to Greenland, sank after being hit by a German torpedo in the Labrador Sea; of the more than 900 men aboard, only some 230 survived. (Four Army chaplains on board gave away their life jackets to save others and went down with the ship.)

On this date:

In 1690, the first paper money in America was issued by the Massachusetts Bay Colony to finance a military expedition to Canada.

In 1877, the song "Chopsticks," written by 16-year-old Euphemia Allen under the pseudonym Arthur de Lulli, was deposited at the British Museum under the title "The Celebrated Chop Waltz."

In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, providing for a federal income tax, was ratified.

In 1917, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, the same day an American cargo ship, the SS Housatonic, was sunk by a U-boat off Britain after the crew was allowed to board lifeboats.

In 1930, the chief justice of the United States, William Howard Taft, resigned for health reasons. (He died just over a month later.)

In 1959, rock-and-roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson died in a small plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa.

In 1966, the Soviet probe Luna 9 became the first manmade object to make a soft landing on the moon.

In 1969, "Candid Camera" creator Allen Funt and his family were aboard an Eastern Airlines flight that was hijacked to Cuba. (Fellow passengers who recognized Funt thought the whole thing was a stunt for his TV show.)

In 1988, the U.S. House of Representatives handed President Ronald Reagan a major defeat, rejecting his request for \$36.2 million in new aid to the Nicaraguan Contras by a vote of 219-211.

In 1991, the rate for a first-class postage stamp rose to 29 cents.

In 1994, the space shuttle Discovery lifted off, carrying Sergei Krikalev (SUR'-gay KREE'-kuh-lev), the first Russian cosmonaut to fly aboard a U.S. spacecraft.

In 1998, Texas executed Karla Faye Tucker, 38, for the pickax killings of two people in 1983; she was the first woman executed in the United States since 1984. A U.S. Marine plane sliced through the cable of a ski gondola in Italy, causing the car to plunge hundreds of feet, killing all 20 people inside.

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Ten years ago: A suicide bomber killed seven people in northwestern Pakistan, including three U.S. soldiers. Motivational speaker James Arthur Ray was arrested on manslaughter charges after three people died following a northern Arizona sweat lodge ceremony he'd led in Oct. 2009. (Ray was convicted of three counts of negligent homicide and spent nearly two years in prison.) Actress Frances Reid, 95, died in Los Angeles.

Five years ago: An evening rush-hour commuter train with 750 people aboard slammed into a SUV at a crossing in Valhalla, New York, killing the vehicle's driver and six people on the train. A video released on militant websites purportedly showed a Jordanian pilot who was captured by the Islamic State group being burned to death.

One year ago: In the lowest-scoring Super Bowl ever, featuring just one touchdown, the New England Patriots beat the Los Angeles Rams, 13-3. Grammy-nominated rapper 21 Savage was arrested in Georgia by immigration authorities, who said it was a targeted operation over his expired visa; the rapper is a British citizen who moved to the U.S. when he was 7. (21 Savage spent 10 days in a detention center in southern Georgia before being released.) The wreckage of the plane carrying soccer player Emiliano Sala was located two weeks after it disappeared from radar over the English Channel; Sala and the pilot were both killed.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Md., is 87. Football Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton is 80. Actress Bridget Hanley is 79. Actress Blythe Danner is 77. Football Hall of Famer Bob Griese is 75. Singer-guitarist Dave Davies (The Kinks) is 73. Singer Melanie is 73. Actress Morgan Fairchild is 70. Actress Pamela Franklin is 70. Actor Nathan Lane is 64. Rock musician Lee Ranaldo (Sonic Youth) is 64. Actor Thomas Calabro is 61. Rock musician/author Lol Tolhurst (The Cure) is 61. Actor-director Keith Gordon is 59. Actress Michele Greene is 58. Country singer Matraca (muh-TRAY'-suh) Berg is 56. Actress Maura Tierney is 55. Actor Warwick Davis is 50. Actress Elisa Donovan is 49. Reggaeton singer Daddy Yankee is 44. Actress Isla (EYE'-luh) Fisher is 44. Musician Grant Barry is 43. Human rights activist Amal Clooney is 42. Singer-songwriter Jessica Harp is 38. Actor Matthew Moy is 36. Rapper Sean Kingston is 30. Actor Brandon Micheal (cq) Hall is 27.

Thought for Today: "Your friend will argue with you." — Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Russian writer (1918-2008).

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