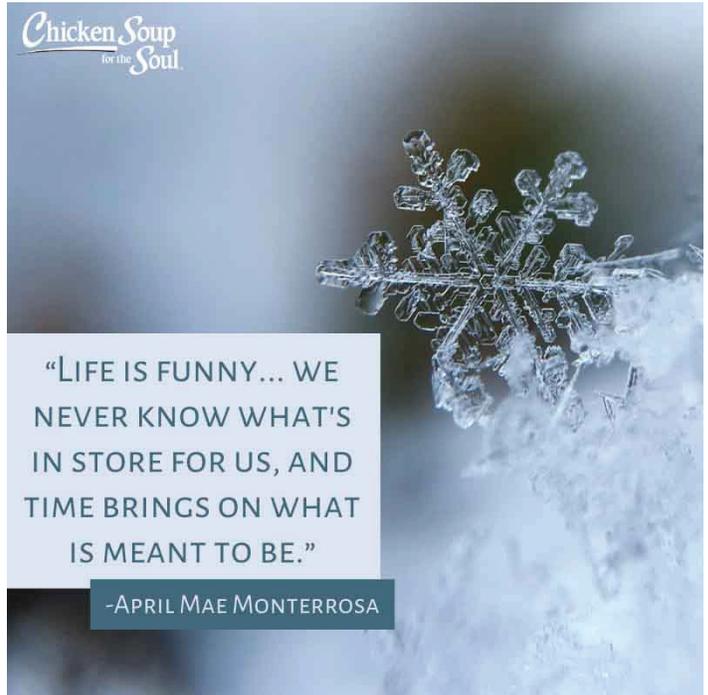


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## Upcoming Events

### Wednesday, February 5, 2020

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

Gospel Solutions to Social Issues are presenting a seminar specifically for Parents Only on February 5th at Groton United Methodist Church, 906 N 1st St., Groton, SD at 6:30PM.

### Thursday, February 6, 2020

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

### Friday, February 7, 2020

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

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## Tigers split with Langford Area

Groton Area hosted Langford Area in a double header with the boys winning their game and the girls losing by only 10 to the Lions.

The varsity games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals, Blocker Construction, Groton Dairy Queen, Jark Real Estate, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises and Tyson DeHoet Trucking

The Lady Tigers suffered a 44-34 loss to Langford Area in the varsity game. The game was tied twice in the first quarter, ending at a seven tie at the first quarter. The Lions scored 10 unanswered points to take a 17-7 lead and led it at half time, 22-15. The Lions held a 38-26 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Alyssa Thaler led the Tigers with 11 points, four rebounds, one assist and two steals. Gracie Traphagen had 10 points, six rebounds, one assist and three steals. Brooke Gengerke had six points, three rebounds and one assist. Allyssa Locke had five points, seven rebounds and four assists. Maddie Bjerke had two points, one rebound and one assist. Madeline Fliehs had four rebounds. Kaycie Hawkins had four rebounds.

Alyssa Thaler led the Tigers with 11 points while Gracie Traphagen had 10, Brooke Gengerke six, Allyssa Locke and Maddie Bjerke each had two points. Mallory Miller led Langford Area with 17 points followed by Ady Dwight with 16, Hanna Miller had eight, Chesney Olson two and Ashley Gustafson had one point.

The Tigers were nine of 48 in shooting for 18 percent while Langford Area was 17 of 52 for 32 percent. Groton Area made six of 10 free throws for 60 percent off of Langford Area's eight team fouls. Langford Area was eight of 13 for 62 percent off of Groton Area's 11 team fouls.

Groton Area had seven turnovers and Langford Area had six.

The boys varsity team won the final game, 52-36. The first half had two equal rallies by both sides. Langford Area had a seven-point rally then Groton Area had a seven-point rally. Later, Langford Area had a six-point rally then Groton Area had a six-point rally. The first half was tied four times with the score being tied at half time at 21.

The lead changed hands three times early in the third quarter before the Tigers started to pull away, leading 38-31 at the end of the third quarter. Groton Area scored the last eight points of the game for the final score of 52-36.

Brodyn DeHoet led the Tigers with 22 points, had four rebounds, one assist and two steals. Kaden Kurtz had 11 points, eight rebounds, four assists and one steal. Jonathan Doeden finished with 10 points, seven rebounds, four assist, one steal and one block. Tristan Traphagen had eight points, four rebounds, one steal and two blocks. Jayden Zak had one point, one rebound, one assist and one steal. Austin Jones had five rebounds, one assist and two blocks. Isaac Smith one rebound and one assist. Wyatt Hearnen had a rebound, an assist and a steal. Lane Tietz had two rebounds, two assists and two steals. Lucas Simon had one block.

Groton Area controlled the boards, 33-19. Langford Area had 16 turnovers, with eight of them being steals. Groton Area had 14 turnovers with eight of them being steals.

Groton Area missed a couple of shots in the final seconds as Langford Area hung on to win the girls junior varsity game, 33-23. Brooke Gengerke led the Tigers with nine points followed by Trista Keith with four, Allyssa Locke had three and Alyssa Thayer and Shallyn Foertsch each had two points.

Olyvia Dwight led the Lions with 15 points while Jenna Nelson had four, Megan Gustafson had three and Alyssa Keough added one point.

Groton Area's boys defense held Langford Area to one field goal in the second half as the Tigers cruised to a 39-17 win in the junior varsity game. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Jesse Zak family.

Langford held a 9-6 lead at the end of the first quarter and it was tied at halftime. The Tigers took a 24-16 lead into the fourth quarter.

Lane Tietz made three three-pointers and led the Tigers with 13 points while Tristan Traphagen had seven, Jayden Zak and Jacob Zak each had five, Chandler Larson had three and Wyatt Hearnen, Kannon Coats and Tate Larson each had two points.

Ben Gustafon led the Lions with nine points while Brayden Peterson had five and Tayson Aadland had three.

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## Glimpses by Brock Greenfield

At our cracker barrel in Aberdeen this past Saturday, a few issues took center stage. I have discussed a couple of them in my most recent article. However, because they are getting much attention from the public, I will make mention of them and provide a little deeper dive into the matters.

Sister Ruth Gaerretz expressed concern over SB 57, which seeks to clarify that plastic straws are not subject to bans at the local level. Under current state protocol, certain issues are not eligible to be regulated at the local level. Our law allows local jurisdictions to regulate those subjects specifically designated to them. In this case, while it can be argued that the courts would ultimately declare locally instituted bans on plastic straws to be an unlawful exercise of power, this bill clearly spells that out. It would be inserted into another section of code that already enumerate items such as beverage containers, plastic garbage bags, and plastic packaging materials as items that are not subjected to local ordinance, except in the case that glass bottles and containers may be restricted from parks and recreational areas due to safety concerns. As this issue has become part of a national campaign, some 22 states have already stipulated that plastic straws are not subject to local bans. As you can imagine, such a ban would create a chaotic situation for wholesalers and retailers, as they would have to wade through which jurisdictions have subjected products to prohibitions. Moreover, failure to clarify this could pave the way for local overreach, with more activists seeking to get locals to attempt to regulate or restrict other products. In SD, we have "preemption" laws that establish a statewide standard regarding a number of issues. We have a statewide standard for texting and driving, for guns and ammunition, and a whole host of other issues. Without preemption laws, you find a patchwork of different standards from county-to-county and town-to-town. While this is not the most pressing issue of the session, it seems to have created public buzz and a fair amount of confusion. The bill passed the Senate 22-12 earlier and is on its way to the House.

Mr. Duane Alm discussed the importance of providing schools some flexibility regarding current capital outlay caps that were imposed when the school funding formula was rewritten in 2016. This has become a highly pressing issue as more and more schools seek to pass opt outs. It has been argued that by addressing this issue appropriately this year, we will provide stability that will lead to fewer opt out endeavors and ultimately lower tax levies. Some of my friends in the legislature and in the hallways have said that the current law places handcuffs on schools that lead to opt outs that seek higher-than-necessary levies going forward because local decision-makers are trying to plan for the future. With increased flexibility, they would be able to operate year-to-year with stable levies that do not seek to swell accounts for future projects and unknowns. I am the prime sponsor on SB 94, which is currently being negotiated by interested parties, including the schools, taxpayer lobbies, the Governor's office and others in hopes of figuring out a better way forward. In the end we hope to be able to strike the proper balance that provides for our K-12 education system's needs with fewer calls for opt-outs, while remaining responsive to and accountable for taxpayer concerns. It is a tall order!

Gavin and Elizabeth Waletich expressed their concerns over HB 1096, which seeks to prohibit "commercial" surrogacy. This is a highly involved bill, but it stems from a move to capitalize on arrangements between couples seeking to have children and the contracts drawn up by surrogacy businesses that have cropped up. What we heard clearly from the Waletichs is that they had a very positive experience, and the young lady who carried their child to term has become "part of the family" even though she is not a blood-relative. Because of their contractual arrangement, they have a beautiful little girl. Passage of HB 1096 would prohibit such contractual arrangements, and—as they said—would make their little girl a misdemeanor. As I listened to the exchange, it struck me that the bill's author has identified certain concerns regarding commercial surrogacy that could be dealt with differently than by banning all commercial surrogacy services. I offered that maybe a better solution would be to establish parameters that provides a framework for what will be acceptable under SD law. This seemed to have initial agreement from both sides. If we cannot get the challenges to this emerging issue figured out this year, I think it

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would be best to kill the bill and work on it in the interim. We do not want to see a knee jerk legislative reaction inhibit couples' ability to expand their families.

Sister Pat Prunty expressed her desire to see us pass a bill that will limit application of the death penalty. There is so much to say about this matter, but I will boil it down to this...our prosecutors in SD are very judicious about seeking justice. Seldom is capital punishment sought, and I believe it has only been exercised seven times in the history of our state. As a society, we do not take this issue lightly. I believe it is paramount that we have the ultimate respect for life. However, when somebody commits a heinous crime against innocent life, I believe it is appropriate for our legal system to be able to consider charging a person with a capital crime. In some cases, this results in plea agreements, while in rare instances, it results in applying the death sentence. That only happens after a jury and/or judge determines that a crime was so gruesome with enough aggravating elements that it is appropriate to implement such a penalty. I would also note that there are a number of disqualifying factors that currently do not allow the state to seek the death penalty, including that a person must be over 18, must be deemed competent to stand trial for such, and must not be mentally ill or handicapped. No matter what your position on the issue, I respect your deeply held beliefs. I also trust our legal system to proceed with extreme caution in arriving at the decision to seek and to impose the ultimate penalty.

I know there are other issues that are important to you, and I will be back next week with another gripping and thought-provoking article. Thank you for being involved in your governmental processes, and thank you for reading! God bless each of you.

## **Service Notice: Curtis Sombke**

Services for Curtis Sombke, 84, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Saturday, February 8th at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Andrew Wolfgram will officiate. Burial with military honors will follow in St. Paul's Cemetery, Ferney under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

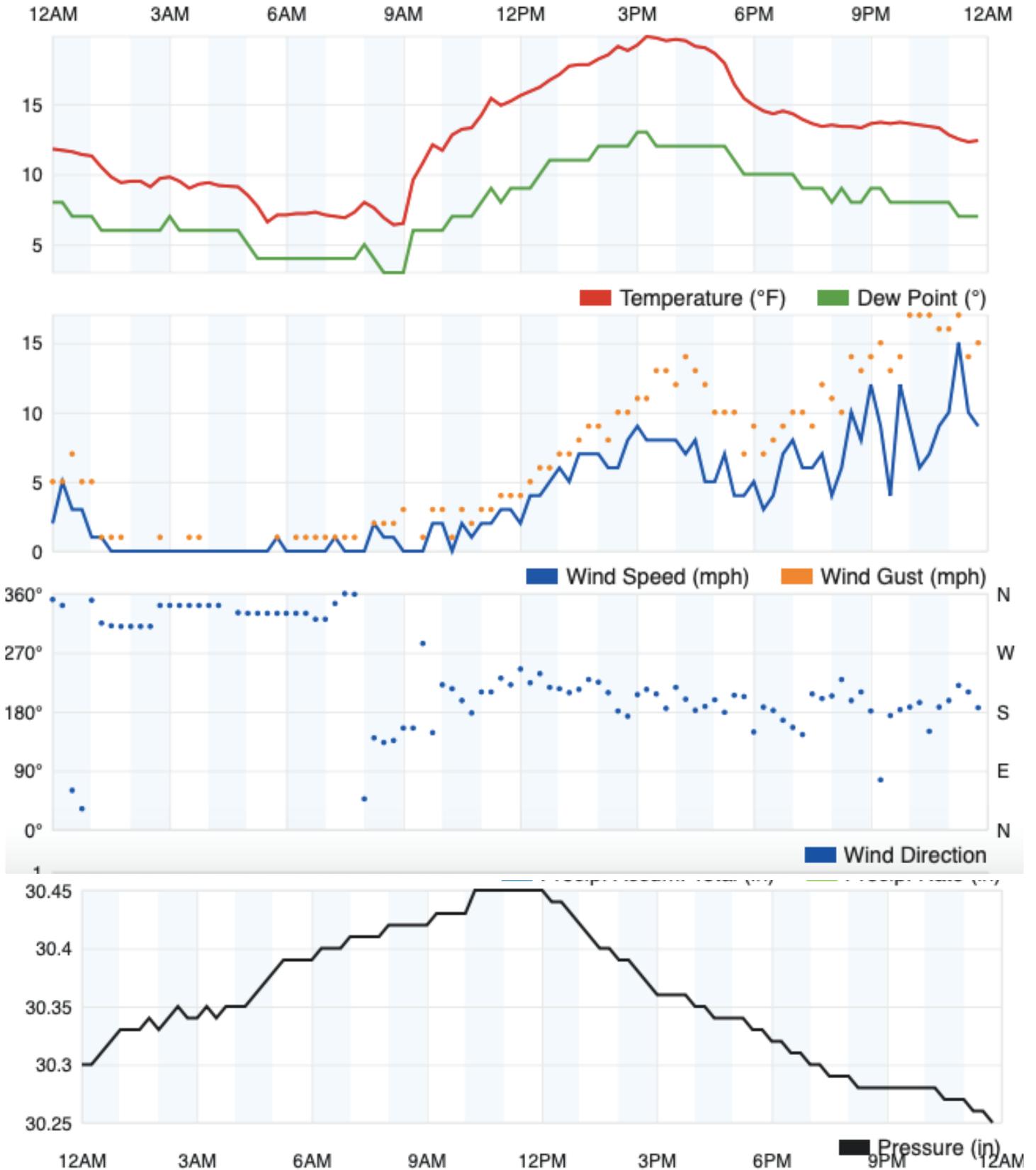
Visitation will be held at the church from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

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

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



## The Life of Robert Schuring



Robert Ignatius (Bob) Schuring, 92, passed away on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at Sun Dial Manor in Bristol, South Dakota. He was born on June 17, 1927 to Joseph (J.W.) and Veronica (Peoples) Schuring in Andover, South Dakota. The youngest of seven children, Bob was raised on a farm just south of town at the same location where he raised his family, and where 3rd and 4th generations of the Schuring family continue to operate a dairy today. After a tornado destroyed the family farm, and killed his mother and a sister in 1938, Bob and his father reconstructed a home using part of the Andover Catholic Church rectory that remained standing after the tornado and they delivered milk from their dairy to the residents of Andover while he was growing up. He attended Andover elementary and high school, and as a youth enjoyed playing basketball during the winter and baseball during the summer. Following high school, he continued to play baseball on Andover's amateur baseball team and basketball on the amateur town team that won six state championships in the 1950's. For more than 60 years, as his children and grandchildren grew, he and Trea were among the fans at many activities and sporting events in the area. Bob also loved having horses on the farm and taught each of his children to ride and appreciate

them as well. In later years, he enjoyed having teams of horses to pull his Budweiser replica wagon in local parades and, when the weather was nice, would often take his family for rides around Andover in the wagons that he built.

Bob married the love of his life, Theresa (Trea) Lynch in Lily, South Dakota on June 20, 1949. To date, their union has been blessed with eight children, 30 grandchildren, and 36 great-grandchildren. Throughout his life, Bob was active in the Andover community, serving on planning committees for the Andover Centennial and numerous All-School Reunions. He also served on the Groton School District Board of Education, the South Dakota Wheat Growers Board, and the Sun Dial Manor Board when that was constructed in 1963. He was a life-long member of All Saints Catholic Church in Andover and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Groton after the Andover church was closed. He was also a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

Mourning his passing are his wife of 70 years, Trea of Andover; sons Randy (Enriqueta) of Andover, Scott (Lois) of Andover, and Brian (Andrea) of Webster; daughters Lana (Royce) Huber of Custer, Deb Lesnar of Andover, Sandy (Larry) Jebens of Rawlins, WY, and Joy (Tom) Poloncic of Rapid City, and daughter-in-law Sara Schuring of Dell Rapids along with his grandchildren Laura and Justin Huber, Travis (Joleen) Schuring, Sommer VanderWater, Tyler Schuring, Victor (Melissa) Schuring, Racine (Anthony) Guarini, Alexa Sophia DeLeora Schuring, Casey (Kelsey) Lesnar, Lindsey (Tracy) Lambert, Mike (Amber) Lesnar, Nick (Codi) Lesnar, Brady (Michelle) Lesnar, Jacqueline Nemmers, Jacob Schuring, Joseph Schuring, Abbie (Joshua) Cribbs, Thomas Schuring, Trevor (Apryl) Jebens, Trent (Ally) Jebens, Trey Jebens, Matt (Morgan) Poloncic, Theresa Poloncic, Cory (Nik) Schuring, Kayla (Kyle) Grimslid, Morgan, Alexa, and Sean Schuring, and Drake and Dylan Halbkat; his great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law, Alice Lynch and Marilyn Lynch; one brother-in-law, Jerry Lynch; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, siblings, and son, Barry. Visitation will be at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Groton, South Dakota from 4 – 7:00 p.m. on Friday, February 7, 2020, followed by wake services at 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 10:30 A.M. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church with burial at All Saints Catholic Cemetery in Andover. Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, South Dakota is in charge of arrangements.

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Today



Sunny

High: 26 °F

Tonight



Increasing  
Clouds

Low: 11 °F

Thursday



Chance Snow

High: 26 °F

Thursday  
Night



Slight Chance  
Snow

Low: 8 °F

Friday



Mostly Cloudy

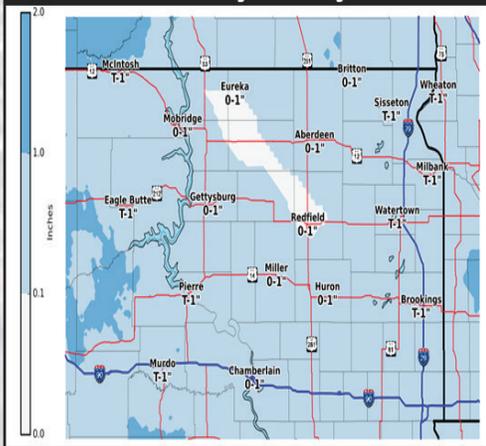
High: 15 °F



## A Couple Chances For Snow

One area of low pressure could bring a quick inch or so of light snow Thursday into Friday morning. Then, a second area of low pressure could produce some light accumulating snow over the weekend.

### Potential for up to an inch of snow Thursday -> Friday



### Light Accumulating Snow Possible Saturday Night -> Sunday



Visit [www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr) for a detailed local forecast

Updated: 2/5/2020 4:29 AM CT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

There will be a couple areas of low pressure that work through the region between Thursday and Sunday. Both systems will bring the potential for a little bit of snow to parts of the forecast area. Expecting temperatures to be running generally near climate normal for the next few days. The lone exception looks to be Friday when temperatures could plummet to levels 5 to 15 degrees below normal.

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## Today in Weather History

February 5, 1978: Another winter blizzard plagued the northern half of the state beginning on February 5th and continuing until the 9th. The unusual aspect of this blizzard was that the wind came from the southeast between 25 to 45 mph. Only one to three inches of new snow accumulation fell during the five-day period but was piled high on the existing large snow drifts. Most of the northern half of the state was paralyzed due to blocked roads. Eighteen counties across the north part of the South Dakota were declared a disaster by the governor. There were also numerous livestock losses.

1745: Today is National Weatherman/Meteorologist day commemorating the birth of John Jeffries in 1745. Jeffries, one of America's first weather observers, began taking daily weather observations in Boston, MA in 1774 and he made the first balloon observation in 1784.

1887: San Francisco experienced its most significant snowstorm of record. Nearly four inches was reported in downtown San Francisco, and the western hills of the city received seven inches. Excited crowds went on a snowball throwing rampage.

1920: An intense nor'easter dumped 17.5 inches of snow over a three day period in New York City, New York.

1986: A supercell thunderstorm tracked through the Tomball area northwest of Houston, TX and produced four tornadoes along with damaging microburst winds and up to tennis ball size hail. An F3 tornado killed two people, injured 80 others and devastated a mobile home park and the David Wayne Hooks Airport. 300 aircraft were either damaged or destroyed. Much of the more substantial hail was propelled by 60 to 80 mph winds, resulting in widespread moderate damage. Total damage from this storm was 80 million dollars.

2008: The Super Tuesday 2008 Tornado Outbreak has been one of the deadliest tornado outbreaks in the US with 59 fatalities reported. So far, it ranks in the top 15 deadly tornado outbreaks (and the highest number of tornado deaths since 1985). According to the SPC Storm Reports, there were over 300 reports of tornadoes, large hail (up to 4.25 inches in diameter in Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri), and damaging wind gusts from Texas to Ohio and West Virginia. The outbreak produced at least 64 tornadoes, some producing EF-3, and EF-4 damage.

1887 - San Francisco experienced its greatest snowstorm of record. Nearly four inches was reported in downtown San Francisco, and the western hills of the city received seven inches. Excited crowds went on a snowball throwing rampage. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms in the Southern Plains Region caused flooding in parts of south central Texas. Del Rio TX was soaked with two inches of rain in two hours prior to sunrise. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cold and snow invaded the southern U.S. Roswell NM was buried under 16.5 inches of snow in 24 hours, an all-time record for that location. Parts of the Central Gulf Coast Region reported their first significant snow in fifteen years. Strong winds in Minnesota and the Dakotas produced wind chill readings as cold as 75 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Severe cold gripped much of the nation. Thirty cities reported new record low temperatures for the date. Morning lows of 9 above at Astoria OR and 27 below zero at Ely NV were records for February. In Alaska, Point Barrow warmed to 24 degrees above zero, and Nome reached 30 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - For the second time in two days, and the third time in a week, high winds plagued the northwestern U.S. Winds in Oregon gusted to 60 mph at Cape Disappointment, and wind gusts in Washington State reached 67 mph at Bellingham. The first in a series of cold fronts began to produce heavy snow in the mountains of Washington and Oregon. Ten inches of snow fell at Timberline OR. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2006 - Mount Washington Observatory in New Hampshire reaches a high of 41°F, the warmest February 5th on record at the summit and two degrees off the monthly mark, where records have been kept since 1932. The Weather Doctor

2008 - The deadliest round of tornadoes in nearly a quarter century kill 58 people in the south. The storms kill 32 people in Tennessee, 14 in Arkansas, seven in Kentucky and five in Alabama. Damage is likely to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. The Weather Doctor

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 20 °F at 3:24 PM**

**Low Temp: 6 °F at 8:52 AM**

**Wind: 18 mph at 10:20 PM**

**Snow**

**Record High: 57° in 1991**

**Record Low: -36° in 1907**

**Average High: 25°F**

**Average Low: 4°F**

**Average Precip in Feb.: 0.06**

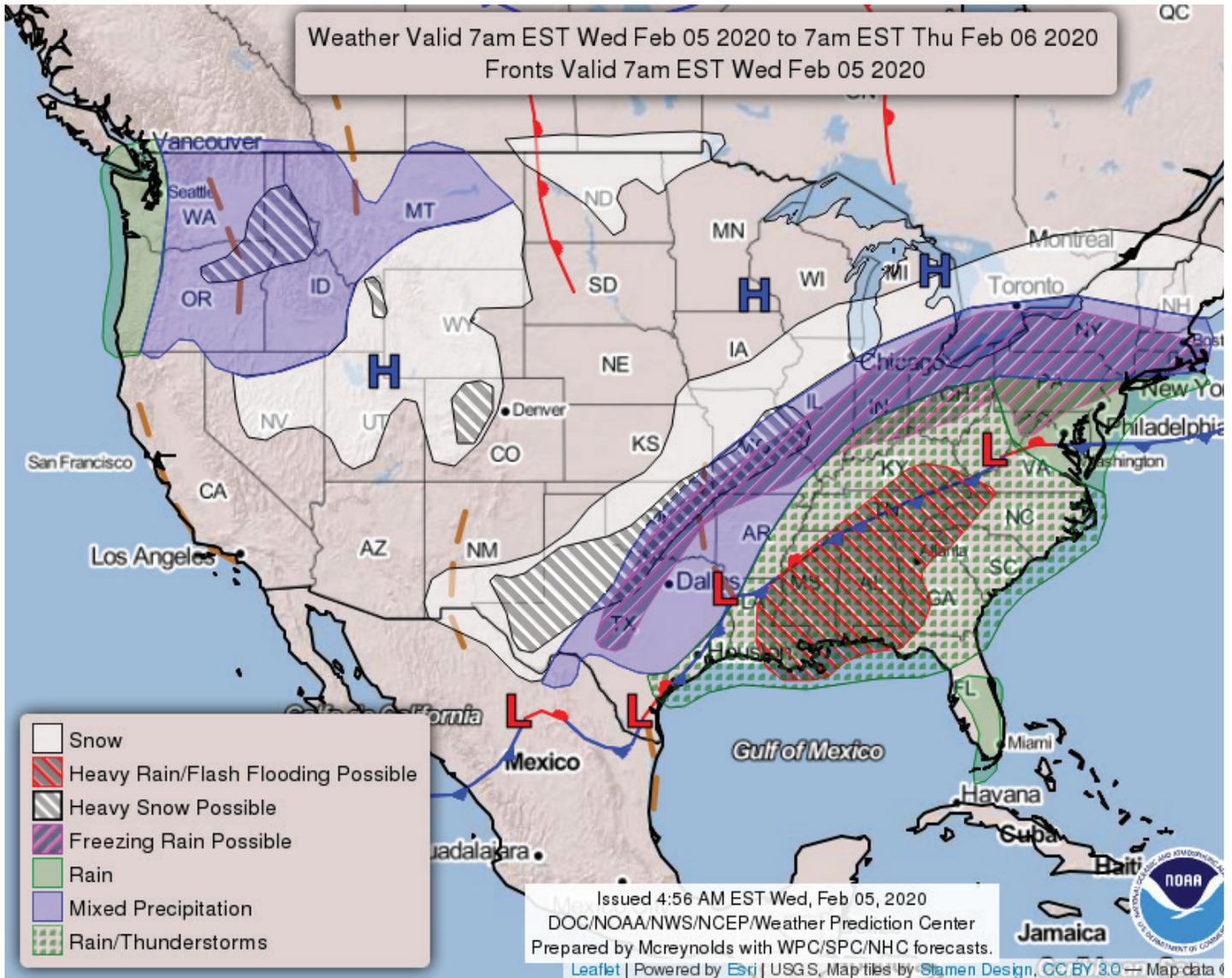
**Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 0.53**

**Precip Year to Date: 0.35**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:46 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:49 a.m.**



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## **"DOING THE BEST I CAN"**

Every now and then we meet someone who believes that they have been called to do something special - something that no one else can do. It makes their lives different, unique.

Charles Schultz created the world-famous comic strip, Peanuts. It grew from the pages of a newspaper to television specials and ultimately a movie. But success came slowly to him. When he was in art school, he barely earned a "C" in a course entitled "The Drawing of Children."

While serving in the armed forces, Schultz designed various cartoons on the letters his friends sent home to their loved ones. He wanted to help them make their letters special. After he returned to civilian life, he submitted a few of them to the Saturday Evening Post. At first, they were rejected, but he refused to give up. Eventually, they became the comic strip, Peanuts.

Once during an interview, he said, "I don't think I am a true artist. But I do think I am doing the best I can with whatever abilities I have been given."

Scripture promised us that "God has given gifts to each of you...manage them well...so His generosity can flow through you." All of us have been given unique gifts from God and He expects us to let them "flow through us" to honor Him, and bless and serve others.

Prayer: We thank You, Father, for the gifts You have given us to use to honor You and serve others. May we use them in ways that will please You and bless others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

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## News from the Associated Press

### Permanent daylight savings time bill stuck after tied vote

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill that would have put South Dakota permanently on daylight savings time failed to pass the House on Tuesday after a 33-33 tie vote.

The proposal to avoid the “fall back” of clocks in November was introduced by Rep. Lana Greenfield, a Doland Republican, to avoid the time disorientation some people feel when daylight savings time ends. Greenfield may still ask the House to reconsider her bill this legislative session.

Legislatures in several states have debated either abolishing or permanently keeping daylight savings time as a way to get a bit more sunlight out of the day. Hawaii and most of Arizona do not observe daylight savings time.

The idea of leaving clocks alone has been proposed several times in the South Dakota Legislature in recent years, but they have all failed.

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

32-48-50-51-64, Mega Ball: 10, Megaplier: 2

(thirty-two, forty-eight, fifty, fifty-one, sixty-four; Mega Ball: ten; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$168 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

### Tuesday's Scores

By The Associated Press

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

Arlington 52, Hamlin 41

Castlewood 62, Waubay/Summit 44

Centerville 57, Alcester-Hudson 54

DeSmet 75, Colman-Egan 65

Dell Rapids 68, Flandreau 40

Elkton-Lake Benton 53, Deuel 27

Garretson 65, Baltic 53

Gayville-Volin 54, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 38

Great Plains Lutheran 52, Lake Preston 43

Hanson 90, Wagner 41

Harrisburg 50, Sioux Falls O’Gorman 48

Highmore-Harrold 66, Sunshine Bible Academy 42

Howard 60, Irene-Wakonda 42

James Valley Christian 59, Hitchcock-Tulare 42

Marty Indian 74, Freeman Academy/Marion 70

McCook Central/Montrose 60, Parkston 50

Mitchell 60, Pierre 42

Mobridge-Pollock 58, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 56

New Underwood 54, Philip 42

Parker 47, Chester 45

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Pine Ridge 80, St. Francis Indian 58  
Platte-Geddes 54, Chamberlain 47  
Potter County 76, Redfield 64  
Sioux Falls Christian 80, Canton 34  
Sioux Falls Lincoln 71, Brookings 54  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 65, Watertown 51  
Sioux Valley 86, Flandreau Indian 33  
Spearfish 79, Lead-Deadwood 38  
Sully Buttes 63, Jones County 29  
Tiospa Zina Tribal 74, Milbank 37  
Todd County 70, Stanley County 52  
Tri-Valley 59, West Central 43  
Vermillion 64, Beresford 45  
Viborg-Hurley 69, Canistota 62  
Warner 56, Faulkton 45  
Webster 65, Wilmot 55  
Wessington Springs 64, Iroquois 57  
Western Christian, Iowa 59, Tea Area 38  
Yankton 67, Aberdeen Central 60

## **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Centerville 71, Alcester-Hudson 61  
Colman-Egan 66, Bridgewater-Emery 50  
Corsica/Stickney 77, Burke 56  
Deuel 33, Elkton-Lake Benton 29  
Faith 77, McIntosh 13  
Faulkton 64, Warner 31  
Florence/Henry 57, Waverly-South Shore 50  
Freeman 56, Scotland 38  
Great Plains Lutheran 56, Lake Preston 40  
Hamlin 58, Arlington 31  
Hanson 59, Wagner 50  
Herreid 56, Linton-HMB, N.D. 53  
Highmore-Harrold 60, Sunshine Bible Academy 20  
Hitchcock-Tulare 48, James Valley Christian 43  
Howard 55, Irene-Wakonda 46  
Ipswich 61, Leola/Frederick 22  
Langford 44, Groton Area 34  
Lead-Deadwood 37, Spearfish 33  
Lemmon 63, Harding County 36  
Lennox 55, Elk Point-Jefferson 41  
Madison 52, Deubrook 45  
Marty Indian 49, Freeman Academy/Marion 35  
McCook Central/Montrose 54, Parkston 39  
Menno 46, Avon 42  
Miller 35, Aberdeen Roncalli 31  
Parker 53, Chester 28  
Pierre 60, Mitchell 59  
Platte-Geddes 58, Chamberlain 50, OT  
Rapid City Stevens 71, Douglas 31  
Redfield 59, Potter County 44

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Sioux Falls Christian 47, Canton 30  
Sioux Falls Lincoln 65, Brookings 31  
Sioux Falls O’Gorman 44, Brandon Valley 29  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 64, Watertown 59  
Sioux Valley 60, Flandreau Indian 46  
Sisseton 49, Britton-Hecla 20  
St. Thomas More 49, Belle Fourche 36  
Sully Buttes 49, Jones County 35  
Tea Area 73, Western Christian, Iowa 71, OT  
Todd County 61, Stanley County 29  
Tri-Valley 54, West Central 47  
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 50, Gayville-Volin 34  
Vermillion 45, Beresford 32  
Wakpala 78, Aberdeen Christian 44  
Waubay/Summit 54, Castlewood 49  
White River 53, Lower Brule 41  
Wilmot 57, Webster 52

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

## **Kelley’s 27 points sends S. Dakota past NAIA Peru St.**

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Cody Kelley scored a career-high 27 points on 10-of-12 shooting and South Dakota beat NAIA-member Peru State College 106-45 on Tuesday night.

Kelley finished 6 of 8 from beyond the 3-point line. The 5-foot-11 guard also grabbed a career-high seven steals. The Coyotes as a team recorded 14 steals.

South Dakota lead 48-20 at halftime and never trailed. Stanley Umude scored 16 points, Tasos Kamateros 15 and Tyler Hagedorn 14.

Ante Martinac led the Bobcats in scoring with eight points and Drew Switzer scored seven.

South Dakota (17-8, 7-3 Summit League) resumes league play at North Dakota (10-13, 4-5) on Saturday.

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

## **Colorado lawmaker takes Health and Human Services job**

DENVER (AP) — Former Colorado state Rep. Susan Beckman has taken a job as a regional director for the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Beckman declined to specify her new job when she abruptly resigned on the floor of the Colorado House Jan. 17, The Denver Post reports.

Beckman was appointed to direct HHS services for the department’s Region 8, according to the agency’s website and a Colorado House Republican Party member.

Beckman will be based in Colorado while overseeing Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

The Republican from Littleton was elected to the state House in 2016 and unsuccessfully ran for Colorado GOP chair last year.

Beckman’s House seat is scheduled to be filled by a vacancy committee Saturday.

Beckman did not respond to a request for comment.

## **Documents detail ouster of University of Wyoming president**

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CASPER, Wyo. (AP) — The University of Wyoming launched an investigation into then-President Laurie Nichols after receiving accusations that she verbally abused employees, records obtained by Wyoming news outlets show.

The documents are the first evidence to indicate what led the board of trustees to cancel a planned renewal of Nichols' contract in 2019.

University officials have not publicly revealed their reasoning behind not renewing the contract. Nichols has since been hired as president of Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota.

The Casper Star-Tribune and WyoFile obtained the documents after they filed a lawsuit under Wyoming's public records act.

More than 100 pages of records were released. They include allegations that Nichols yelled at a university foundation employee about an invasive species initiative and at a staff member over a student's interaction with her dog.

Nichols yelled at the employee in an "abusive" tone and pounding her fingers on a desk because "staffers were getting ahead of her" on the initiative, according to notes taken on the foundation staff member's account of the encounter.

In another alleged incident, Nichols "raised her voice" with an employee after Nichols' dog jumped on a student working as a caterer in her home. Nichols told the worker it was unacceptable to bring anyone into the home who is afraid of dogs, according to the documents.

Nichols said in a statement distributed by her attorney that she accepts people may have criticized her as a boss who had to eliminate jobs and cut resources, but she never treated anybody in an abusive way.

"I sorely regret that the Trustees decided to hide these complaints from me and never ask for my response," she continued. "Instead for months, I was led to believe I would be at UW for another 3 years. I wanted to continue as UW's President. The documents confirm that the terms of my renewed contract were negotiated and finalized with the Trustees. During the time of this secret investigation, I was being recruited for two other university presidential positions. I passed on them because my renewed contract with UW was negotiated and done."

Nichols and trustees agreed in January 2019 to a new contract that would have paid the popular president over \$500,000 in total compensation. University human resources officials on Jan. 28 became aware of the foundation employee incident, the documents show.

Internal interviews were conducted until mid-February, when board Chairman Dave True signed an agreement with a Colorado firm, Employment Matters Flynn Investigation Group, which began looking into Nichols.

Flynn investigators contacted over a dozen employees between mid-February and March, the records show.

Notes from the investigators do not indicate that they interviewed Nichols, however, nor is there any written response from the former president.

Finally, on March 13, True texted Nichols, who was vacationing in Arizona, and told her to meet him and three other board members at a local airport. It was then that she was told that she wouldn't continue as president.

True did not immediately respond to a request for comment. University leadership and trustees released a statement about the documents on Friday.

"We are confident the material shows our decision not to renew President Nichols' contract reflected prudent judgment and was in the best interest of the University of Wyoming and its people," that statement said.

## South Dakota House panel backs online voter registration

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota House committee on Tuesday approved a proposal by Secretary of State Steve Barnett to allow people to register to vote online.

Barnett said the bill would allow people with a South Dakota driver's license or other state ID to register

to vote through an online portal. He proposed launching the system July 1 next year. His office said 38 other states already allow voters to register online.

Barnett said the system would make it more convenient to register, increase the accuracy of voter rolls, and may save money for county election officials who could spend less time on voter registration. It would cost \$25,000 to implement, according to his office.

The system would verify registration information by checking it against the state's vital records and other databases to make sure the person is eligible. The state has used a similar system since 2011 for absentee voters who serve in the military or live overseas.

The full House will decide on the bill next. Several legislators said they are planning amendments.

The committee also approved a bill to remove the year of birth from publicly available voter registration records, as recommended by the Department of Homeland Security to protect against identity theft.

## Gender dysphoria bill pulled in Senate but expected in House

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota state senator on Tuesday pulled a bill that would have required school counselors to tell parents if their child expressed feelings of gender dysphoria or self-harm, saying he is yielding to an expected House bill related to parental rights.

Sen. Phil Jensen, a Rapid City Republican, tabled his bill in the Senate Education Committee.

The American Civil Liberties Union welcomed the move, saying the bill would infringe on students' right to privacy. The organization said the bill could have put students whose parents don't affirm their gender identity at heightened risk of physical abuse and homelessness.

Jensen said he is also withdrawing another bill he introduced that would allow parents to stop their children from receiving health care, including counseling services, that promote or confirm a child's gender different from their birth gender.

He said he didn't want his bill to conflict with a bill passed by the House last week that would make it illegal for physicians to administer puberty-blockers, hormone therapy or surgery to children under age 16 who want to change their gender. A Senate committee is scheduled to consider that proposal next week.

## Senate bill would allow courthouse employee to carry guns

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A new Senate bill would allow county courthouse employees in South Dakota to possess concealed guns at work.

Opposition to the bill is already surfacing. Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom thinks it could cause some problems.

"There's security in courtrooms and courthouses for a lot of good reasons for past violence occurred, emotions are very high often times at court hearings particularly civil matters," Thom tells KOTA-TV.

Thom says he's opposed to allowing more guns into the Pennington County Courthouse. But he adds it should be up to each county to make that decision.

The three sponsors of the bill are Sen. Lance Russell and Reps. Tim Goodwin and Julie Frye-Mueller, who all represent Pennington County.

## Murder defendant in Fall River County to represent himself

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A defendant facing a murder charge in Fall River County has decided to represent himself after dismissing two lawyers.

Thomas Lucero, 29, was indicted by a grand jury in September 2017 on a first-degree or alternate second-degree murder charge.

He's accused of fatally shooting Moses Dubray in the head in January 2017. Dubray was found dead near state Highway 89 after walking away from the Rapid City Community Work Center the previous day.

Lucero is currently serving a 12-year sentence for a first-degree robbery in Minnehaha County.

Assistant Attorney General Scott Roetzel tells the Rapid City Journal it's "highly unique" for a murder

defendant to proceed without a defense lawyer.

Roetzel said this is the first time he's heard of this happening in the 28 years he's worked in South Dakota. "I humbly believe that I do not have any other choice" because the previous lawyers did not provide effective assistance and were racially prejudiced, Lucero wrote in his motion to proceed without an attorney. Lucero is Hispanic, according to the Department of Corrections website.

## Trump uses State of Union to campaign; Pelosi rips up speech

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Standing before a Congress and a nation sharply divided by impeachment, President Donald Trump used his State of the Union address to extol a "Great American Comeback" on his watch, just three years after he took office decrying a land of "American carnage" under his predecessor.

The partisan discord was on vivid display Tuesday as the first president to campaign for reelection after being impeached made his case for another term: Republican legislators chanted "Four More Years." House Speaker Nancy Pelosi ripped up her copy of Trump's speech as he ended his address.

"America's enemies are on the run, America's fortunes are on the rise and America's future is blazing bright," Trump declared. "In just three short years, we have shattered the mentality of American decline and we have rejected the downsizing of America's destiny. We are moving forward at a pace that was unimaginable just a short time ago, and we are never going back."

Holding out the nation's economic success as the chief rationale for a second term, Trump's speech resembled a lower-volume version of his campaign rallies, providing something for every section of his political base.

But while he tweets daily assailing his impeachment, Trump never mentioned the "i-word" in his 78-minute speech. That followed the lead of Bill Clinton, who did not reference his recent impeachment when he delivered his State of the Union in 1999. Trump spoke from the House of Representatives, on the opposite side of the Capitol from where the Senate one day later was expected to acquit him largely along party lines.

Pelosi, a frequent thorn in Trump's side, created a viral image with her seemingly sarcastic applause of the president a year ago. This time, she was even more explicit with her very text-ripping rebuke.

Trump appeared no more cordial. When he climbed to the House rostrum, he did not take her outstretched hand though it was not clear he had seen her gesture. Later, as Republicans often cheered, she remained in her seat, at times shaking her head at his remarks.

When Pelosi left, she told reporters that tearing up the speech was "the courteous thing to do considering the alternative." Republicans denounced her action as disrespectful.

Trump, the former reality TV star, added a showbiz flavor to the staid event: He had wife Melania present the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, to the divisive conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh, who recently announced he has advanced lung cancer.

He stunned a young student in the gallery with a scholarship. And he orchestrated the surprise tearful reunion of a soldier from overseas with his family in the balcony.

Even for a Trump-era news cycle that seems permanently set to hyper-speed, the breakneck pace of events dominating the first week of February offered a singular backdrop for the president's address.

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, who has presided in the Senate over only the third impeachment trial in the nation's history, was on hand again Tuesday night — this time in his more customary seat in the audience. Trump stood before the very lawmakers who have voted to remove him from office — and those who are expected to acquit him when the Senate trial comes to a close.

The leading Senate Democrats hoping to unseat him in November were off campaigning in New Hampshire. In advance of his address, Trump tweeted that the chaos in Iowa's Monday leadoff caucuses showed Democrats were incompetent and should not be trusted to run the government.

Among Trump's guests in the chamber: Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who has been trying to win face time with Trump, his most important international ally.

The president offered Guaidó exactly the sort of endorsement he's been looking for as he struggles

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to oust President Nicolás Maduro from power. Trump called Guaidó “the true and legitimate president of Venezuela.”

“Socialism destroys nations,” Trump declared.

The president entered the evening on a roll, with his impeachment acquittal imminent, his job approval numbers ticking upward and Wall Street looking strong. He struck a largely optimistic tone. But in past moments when Trump has struck a tone of bipartisanship and cooperation, he has consistently returned to harsher rhetoric within days.

Trump spent much of the speech highlighting the economy’s strength, including low unemployment, stressing how it has helped blue-collar workers and the middle class, though the period of growth began under his predecessor, Barack Obama. And what Trump calls an unprecedented boom is, by many measures, not all that different from the solid economy he inherited from President Barack Obama. Economic growth was 2.3% in 2019, matching the average pace since the Great Recession ended a decade ago in the first year of Obama’s eight-year presidency

Trump stressed the new trade agreements he has negotiated, including his phase-one deal with China and the United States-Mexico-Canada agreement he signed last month.

While the White House said the president was offering a message of unity, he also spent time on issues that have created great division and resonated with his political base. He attacked Democrats’ health care proposals for being too intrusive and again highlighted his signature issue — immigration — trumpeting the miles of border wall that have been constructed.

He also dedicated a section to “American values,” discussing efforts to protect “religious liberties” and limit access to abortion as he continues to court the evangelical and conservative Christian voters who form a crucial part of his base.

The Democrats were supplying plenty of counter-programming, focusing on health care — the issue key to their takeover of the House last year. Trump, for his part, vowed to not allow a “socialist takeover of our health care system” a swipe at the Medicare For All proposal endorsed by some of his Democratic challengers.

Many female Democrats were wearing white as tribute to the suffragettes, while a number in the party were wearing red, white and blue-striped lapel pins to highlight climate change, saying Trump has rolled back environmental safeguards and given free rein to polluters.

Several Democratic lawmakers, including California Rep. Maxine Waters and New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, announced in advance of the speech that they would be skipping it while other Democrats walked out early.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer delivered her party’s official response and drew a contrast between actions taken by Democrats and the president’s rhetoric.

“It doesn’t matter what the president says about the stock market,” Whitmer said. “What matters is that millions of people struggle to get by or don’t have enough money at the end of the month after paying for transportation, student loans, or prescription drugs.”

AP writers Darlene Superville, Amer Madhani in Washington and David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan, contributed to this report.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

## **Pelosi shreds Trump’s speech. Right there on the podium.**

**By LAURIE KELLMAN and LISA MASCARO Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — And then she tore up the speech.

No sooner had President Donald Trump finished his State of the Union address than House Speaker Pelosi ripped the paper it was printed on in two.

Right there, on camera, behind Trump’s back. As he stepped down, she ripped again. Then a third time.

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And a fourth. If Trump knew about the American carnage going on behind him, he didn't react as he left. But Pelosi was on her turf, with a deep understanding of her audience — and she wasn't finished. In case any confusion remained, Pelosi held up what remained of the address to her family in the gallery, in full view of reporters.

"It was a manifesto of mistruths," Pelosi told reporters as she left the Capitol. The ripping was not planned, according to a person close to the Democratic speaker who was unauthorized to speak publicly. Republicans dismissed her display, on the eve of Trump's acquittal in the Senate impeachment trial, as a tantrum.

"She might as well rip up any plans for attracting independent voters," Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh said. "Pelosi and the Democrats sat on their hands through all of the good news for Americans in that speech."

"This speech was about American heroes and American workers," tweeted Steve Scalise of Louisiana, the Republican vote-counter. "She decided THAT was worth literally tearing apart."

Tearing the speech gave Pelosi the last visual word over Trump, who had spoken to the House from a position of strength. He arrived in the chamber with the full force of the Republican Party behind him. She is leading a party in the throes of a divisive presidential nomination fight that had botched the kickoff Iowa caucuses only the night before. The House had impeached Trump on her watch. But the Senate was poised to acquit him.

From the start, the event was awkward because the history between those two was so icy. They had not spoken since October, when Pelosi pointed at Trump over a White House conference table, suggested that Russia controls him and walked out.

Now, Trump was returning to the very chamber where he was impeached, standing before the same Democrats who have called him unfit for office and sought to oust him. He stepped to the podium and handed navy blue folders containing his speech to Pelosi and Vice President Mike Pence. Photos from that moment show that Trump mistakenly handed Pence's copy to Pelosi. The outside reads in gold letters: "The President of the Senate of the United States." That's Pence's title.

At that moment, Pelosi extended a hand. Trump did not acknowledge it, instead turning around to begin his speech.

Pelosi, famous for casting shade, especially on Trump, gave a look.

For 78 minutes, Trump went on to extol a "Great American Comeback" on his watch, just three years after he took office decrying a land of "American carnage" under his predecessor. Pelosi read through her copy as he spoke.

Trump bestowed the Medal of Freedom on Rush Limbaugh to raucous applause and a glum reception from House Democrats.

"My fellow Americans, the best is yet to come," he finished.

Pelosi had already gathered the papers for her big ripping finish, which she later said was "the courteous thing to do, considering the alternative."

The moment was a less joyful echo of last year's State of the Union, when Pelosi stole the show with a smirk-and-clap, eye to eye with Trump. Then, Democrats were triumphant after election gains that flipped the House from Republican control and put Pelosi back in the speaker's chair.

That night, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez arrived on the scene wearing a white caped pantsuit and sat prominently at the center of the Democratic section. Tuesday night, on the eve of Trump's acquittal, the congresswoman skipped the speech altogether.

"After much deliberation, I have decided that I will not use my presence at a state ceremony to normalize Trump's lawless conduct & subversion of the Constitution," Ocasio-Cortez tweeted a few hours before the speech. "None of this is normal, and I will not legitimize it."

Follow Kellman and Mascaro on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman> and <http://twitter.com/LisaMascaro>

This story has been corrected to show Limbaugh was given the Medal of Freedom, not the Medal of Honor.

## 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. **EXTOLLING A 'GREAT AMERICAN COMEBACK'** President Trump stands before a Congress and nation sharply divided by impeachment and uses his State of the Union address to make a campaign-style case for another four-year term.

2. **'A MANIFESTO OF MISTRUTHS'** That's what House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said about Trump's speech after she tore it up on the podium and on camera, a display Republicans dismissed as a tantrum.

3. **TRUMP FACES ALMOST CERTAIN ACQUITTAL** An afternoon vote in the Senate will bring an end to only the third presidential impeachment trial in American history, a moment the president is eager to use as vindication.

4. **IOWA RELEASES MORE CAUCUS RESULTS** Early results show Pete Buttigieg with a slight lead over Bernie Sanders in the opening contest of the Democratic Party's 2020 primary season.

5. **HEALTH AUTHORITIES STRUGGLE IN VIRUS CONTAINMENT** Halting the spread of a new virus that has killed hundreds in China is difficult in part because important details about the illness and how it spreads are still unknown.

6. **WHO'S DOCUMENTING CLIMATE CHANGE** Tourists, nature lovers and amateur scientists are whipping out their cameras to chronicle the effects of extreme high tides on shorelines from the U.S. to New Zealand.

7. **SYRIAN MILITANTS DEPLOYED IN LIBYA'S CIVIL WAR** Extremists affiliated with al-Qaida and the Islamic State group are currently being sent by Turkey to fight on behalf of the U.N.-supported government in Libya.

8. **SOME ASYLUM SEEKERS FACE DEADLY CONSEQUENCES** Human Rights Watch says at least 138 people deported from the U.S. to El Salvador in recent years were subsequently killed in the Central American country.

9. **RUSH LIMBAUGH GETS SURPRISE HONOR** The conservative radio host, battling advanced lung cancer, is awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom during the State of the Union address.

10. **DODGERS PULL OFF BIG TRADE** Mookie Betts, the American League MVP in 2018, is acquired by Los Angeles in a blockbuster deal with the cost-cutting Boston Red Sox.

## Unknowns of the new virus make global quarantines a struggle

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Health authorities are scrambling to halt the spread of a new virus that has killed hundreds in China, restricting visitors from the country and confining thousands on cruise ships for extensive screening after some passengers tested positive. But with important details about the illness and how it spreads still unknown, officials and medical personnel are struggling.

Governments have rushed to get their citizens out of China, which is orchestrating history's largest anti-viral campaign by blocking 50 million people from leaving Wuhan, the center of the outbreak, and nearby areas. A growing number of Chinese cities are discouraging people from even leaving their apartments. Villages have blocked entry points with piles of dirt and rubble, while businesses and offices remain closed indefinitely.

As Beijing's authoritarian leadership faces questions over having kept its citizens in the dark for weeks before infections started to explode, other countries are trying to set up effective quarantines to stop a possible pandemic.

Those efforts have not always been smooth, with violent protests near quarantine centers, banishment to remote islands, and some citizens allowed to leave quarantine early.

A look at the world's sometimes-wobbly efforts to stop the crisis:

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## SOUTH KOREA

South Korea has confirmed 18 cases of infection with the new type of coronavirus and there are fears of a broader local spread.

The country has banned entry to all foreigners who traveled to China's Hubei province, where Wuhan is located, after Jan. 21. The government says it will consider stopping South Korean tourist visits to China if the outbreak worsens.

Officials have acknowledged missteps in monitoring visitors from China and in tracing the contacts of those infected.

Anxiety abounds. Movie theaters, shopping malls and restaurants have closed. A large church in Seoul skipped Sunday services because a virus patient had attended earlier. Parents have kept schoolchildren at home. Stores are running out of face masks and hand sanitizers.

Residents of central South Korea threw eggs and other objects at government officials over plans to quarantine about 700 evacuees from Wuhan at government facilities in their neighborhoods.

## AUSTRALIA

Australia has been criticized over its decision to quarantine about 300 Wuhan evacuees on a remote island used in the past to banish asylum seekers and convicts.

Critics say a quarantine center on the Australian mainland would be preferable to Christmas Island. Some inhabitants of the island say the government is turning their home into a "leper colony."

The government argues that the location strikes a balance between supporting Australians stranded in China and protecting the wider Australian population from the disease.

People on the Australian mainland who might have caught the virus are not placed in quarantine, but are advised to self-isolate for 14 days, which scientists say is the longest incubation period of the virus. The 13 confirmed cases are being treated in hospitals.

Starting this month, Australia has banned foreigners without permanent residency from entering the country if they had visited mainland China in the previous 14 days. China's national women's soccer team has been quarantined at a Brisbane hotel since arriving last week.

## JAPAN

Japan, which has reported 33 cases, stepped up quarantine measures after officials were criticized last week for allowing two evacuees from Wuhan to leave early from a hotel where they had been quarantined.

Officials say 518 evacuees have been placed under a 14-day quarantine at a hotel and three government facilities near Tokyo. Those with symptoms have been treated in isolation rooms at hospitals.

On Tuesday, the government confirmed at least 10 cases on a cruise ship and are quarantining its 3,700 crew and passengers on board.

Starting Saturday, Japan banned the entry of foreigners who have visited Hubei province in the previous 14 days.

Social media is overflowing with comments calling for a ban on all visitors from China.

"I'm afraid Japan will be soon criticized for taking less measures than other countries," said Mitsunori Okamoto, an opposition lawmaker.

## NORTH KOREA

North Korea has yet to report a case, but it's still pushing a tough campaign to prevent the spread of the virus, which state media have called a matter of "national existence."

The country has blocked tourists, reduced flights and strengthened screening at borders, harbors and airports. State media say 30,000 health workers have been mobilized across the country for preventive measures.

Rival South Korea last week withdrew dozens of officials from an inter-Korean liaison office in Kaesong after North Korea insisted on closing it until the epidemic is controlled.

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Because fighting the virus is crucial "for defending the security of the country and the life and safety of people, all the workers in the anti-epidemic field set up rapid reaction teams ... so as to promptly counter any slightest situation," Pyongyang's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper said.

## UNITED STATES

March Air Reserve Base in California's Riverside County is near capacity after housing 195 people flown in from Wuhan who are now under a federal quarantine.

"We're pretty much full at this point," said Maj. Perry Covington, a spokesman at the base.

None of the evacuees at the base has shown signs of the illness.

Tents were set up over the weekend to assist in screening passengers in case other U.S.-bound flights from Wuhan are diverted to the base due to weather or other reasons.

## LATIN AMERICA

Mexico says 10 citizens who were flown from China to France on Saturday are in good health. The government hasn't restricted travel to Wuhan but advises against nonessential trips.

Venezuela has started to monitor incoming passengers for symptoms at its largest airport near the capital, Caracas, and plans to expand screening to other airports.

Argentina hasn't placed restrictions on visitors from China. But two hospitals in Buenos Aires and Ezeiza have been designated for possible isolation and treatment of patients.

## HONG KONG, SOUTHEAST ASIA

Hong Kong said Wednesday more than 3,600 people on board a cruise ship that was turned away from a Taiwanese port will be quarantined until health checks are completed. The ship was refused entry at Kaohsiung port after three passengers on an earlier voyage later tested positive for the virus.

An AirAsia plane carrying 107 Malaysians and their non-Malaysian spouses and children from Wuhan arrived in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday. They will be quarantined for two weeks.

Indonesia moved 240 evacuees on Sunday from Wuhan to the remote island of Natuna, where they will be quarantined. Health workers in protective gear sprayed the evacuees with disinfectant as they stepped off their jet.

Thailand on Tuesday night admitted 138 people just flown in from Wuhan to its first dedicated quarantine facility, inside a Navy compound in the east of the country.

Evacuees were screened in a six-hour process at the airport in Wuhan before boarding with none showing definitive signs of the virus. They landed at U-Tapao airport and were taken to the Sattahip Navy Lodge, which normally serves as a guest house. They will be kept there two to a room for 14 days, with family members allowed to visit them if they are still not showing symptoms after three days' stay.

Quarantining of confirmed cases was already being done at various hospitals and around the capital, Bangkok.

## EUROPE

Britain has quarantined dozens of people evacuated from China at Arrowe Park Hospital in northwest England. One evacuee has been isolated at a separate hospital for further tests.

"It's quite weird being home but not being home, and also being sort of locked in, almost like being back in Wuhan really," Kharn Lambert, a teacher who worked in Wuhan, told Sky News about being isolated at Arrowe Park.

France used two flights to bring back about 400 people from China. They are being quarantined at two different sites in southern France. Italy and Spain have quarantined dozens of evacuees at military facilities.

## AFRICA

Quarantine measures are a serious concern in Africa, where health systems on the 54-country continent

vary dramatically. John Nkengasong, head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said there could be undetected infections on the continent.

A plane carrying 167 Moroccan passengers, mostly students, arrived Sunday near Casablanca. They will be quarantined for 20 days in two hospitals in Rabat and Meknes.

In Lagos in Nigeria, authorities asked people arriving from China or other affected countries to practice "unsupervised self-quarantine," which means staying home, minimizing contact with family members and monitoring for symptoms.

The Chinese embassy in Kenya says it required Chinese companies to quarantine employees returning to the East African country from China for two weeks, symptoms or no.

South Sudan, with one of the world's most fragile health systems following a five-year civil war, recently celebrated the installment of a single thermal scanner at the arrival area of its airport in its capital, Juba.

AP writers Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia; Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo; Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Niniek Karmini in Jakarta, Indonesia; Cara Anna in Johannesburg, South Africa; Amy Taxin in Riverside, California; Peter Orsi in Mexico City; Scott Smith in Caracas, Venezuela; Danica Kirka in London; Elaine Ganley in Paris; Colleen Barry in Milan, Italy; and Ciaran Giles in Madrid contributed to this report.

## Japan quarantines cruise ship as toll of new virus grows

By FOSTER KLUG and MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Large white sheets covering them head-to-knee, people infected with a new virus were led by gloved and masked officials Wednesday off a Japanese cruise ship that's being quarantined amid growing worry about the spread of an outbreak.

The quarantine of 3,711 people aboard the Diamond Princess is part of a global health emergency that seems to worsen by the day. The little-understood new coronavirus has killed 490 people in mainland China, officials said Wednesday. But it has also spread panic and discrimination around the world as the number of cases grow.

More than 1,800 people on another cruise ship were being screened in Hong Kong after three passengers on a previous voyage were diagnosed with the virus. Thousands of hospital workers in Hong Kong were striking to demand the border with mainland China be closed completely. And on the mainland, patients were being treated in newly built or converted hospitals while some at overcrowded facilities sat on the floor.

Tokyo Olympics organizers said they are increasingly worried about the disruption the virus is causing ahead of the games, which open in less than six months.

As examples of anti-Asian discrimination mount, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed for "international solidarity" and support for China and other countries hurt by the virus. He urged a stop to any stigmatization of innocent people.

In the port city of Yokohama, just outside Tokyo, health workers, some in protective white jumpsuits, transferred 10 patients from the Diamond Princess cruise ship to a Japanese coast guard boat next to it. The 10, covered in sheets to protect their identities from cameras, were taken to a dock and put on ambulances bound for hospitals for treatment in isolation.

Health Minister Katsunobu Kato said all the people on board will be quarantined on the ship for up to 14 days under Japanese law. The ship had 2,666 passengers and 1,045 crew members. Tests were pending on 273 people who had symptoms or had contact with a man who was diagnosed with the virus after leaving the ship in Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong, hospital workers were striking to demand the border with mainland China be shut completely to ward off the virus. Hospitals said they had to cut some services due to striking workers' absences.

The territory's beleaguered leader, Carrie Lam, criticized the strike and said the government was doing all it could to limit the flow of people across the border. Almost all land and sea links have been closed, but the striking workers want the border shut completely.

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"Important services, critical operations have been affected," Lam told reporters. "So I'm appealing to those who are taking part in this action: Let's put the interests of the patients and the entire public health system above all other things."

The latest mainland China figures showed an increase of 65 deaths from the previous day, all the new deaths from Wuhan. The number of new cases increased to 24,324, a rise of 3,887 from the previous day. Outside mainland China, at least 220 cases have been confirmed, including two fatalities, one in Hong Kong and another in the Philippines.

The infections on the cruise ship raised Japan's total to 33 cases. South Korea and Thailand reported recent cases among people who had not been to China, raising concerns about how easily the virus might be spreading in other places.

To treat the thousands of patients in its hard-hit central region, China built a new hospital in a matter of days and converted a gymnasium, exhibition hall and cultural center.

Patients were being moved into a 1,000-bed hospital with prefabricated wards and isolation rooms in Wuhan. A 1,500-bed hospital also specially built for virus patients opens Thursday. The hospitals made from converted public spaces to treat patients with mild symptoms have a total of 3,400 beds, the simple cots placed in tight rows in cavernous rooms without any barriers between them.

One man, Fang Bin, said he saw wards so crowded during a visit to the city's No. 5 Hospital on Saturday that some patients were forced to sit on the ground.

With the epicenter of the outbreak, Wuhan, cut off by rail, air and road to try to contain the virus, the United States and other countries were organizing more evacuation flights for their citizens still in the central Chinese city. Two of the latest planes returned to Russia and New Zealand on Wednesday, with the returnees quarantined for the maximum incubation period of the virus.

Dr. David Heymann, who led the World Health Organization's response to the SARS outbreak, said it's too early to tell when the new coronavirus will peak, but that it appears to still be on the increase.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged countries outside China to share more data on infections, saying detailed information has been provided in only 38% of cases. "Without better data, it's very hard for us to assess how the outbreak is evolving or what impact it could have and to ensure we're providing the most appropriate recommendations."

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Associated Press writers Edie Lederer at the United Nations, Alice Fung in Hong Kong, Ken Moritsugu in Tokyo, Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul and Nick Perry in New Zealand contributed to this report.

## Scientists dive into 'Midnight Zone' to study dark ocean

By **JAMES BROOKS** Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — A team of scientists is preparing to dive deep into the depths of the Indian Ocean — into a "Midnight Zone" where light barely reaches but life still thrives.

Scientists from the British-led Nekton Mission plan to survey wildlife and gauge the effects of climate change in the unexplored area. Working with the Seychelles and Maldives governments, the five-week expedition is targeting seamounts — vast underwater mountains that rise thousands of meters from the sea floor.

To explore such inhospitable depths, Nekton scientists will board one of the world's most advanced submersibles, called "Limiting Factor."

"What we do know is that beneath 1,000 meters (3,280 feet), there's no light down there, but a lot of animals ... are bioluminescent. It's life that glows," says Nekton mission director Oliver Steeds.

"The area that we're going to be researching, it's one of the most bio-diverse parts of the world's oceans. So what we're going to find there is unknown," Steeds recently told The Associated Press in Barcelona, Spain, before sea trials for the submersible and its mother ship.

The AP will be covering the expedition exclusively from start to finish.

Last August, the "Limiting Factor" completed the Five Deeps Expedition, diving to the deepest point in

each of the world's five oceans. The deepest was almost 11,000 meters (36,000 feet) down — deeper than Mount Everest is tall.

To withstand such crushing pressures, the sub's two-person crew compartment is wrapped in a nine-centimeter (3.5-inch) titanium cocoon. It also carries up to 96 hours' worth of emergency oxygen.

"There are only five vehicles in the world that can get below 6,000 meters (19,685 feet), and only one that can get to the bottom half," said expedition leader Rob McCallum. "So everything we do is new. Everything we see is virtually a new discovery."

Using sampling, sensor and mapping technology, scientists expect to identify new species and towering seamounts, as well as observe man-made impacts, such as climate change and plastic pollution.

Last May, when "Limiting Factor" descended to the bottom of the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench, the ocean's deepest point, its pilot spotted a plastic bag.

"When we actually think of the living space on the planet for species, over 90% of that living space is in the ocean and most of that ocean is unexplored," says Dan Laffoley, a marine expert for the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

"So it's absolutely critical, at this time when we see such large changes occurring, that we get people down there, we get eyes in the ocean and we see what's happening," he said.

Scientists will combine their observations with those conducted last year during a seven-week Indian Ocean mission. They plan to present their findings in 2022.

Follow AP's full coverage of climate issues at <https://www.apnews.com/Climate>

## Turkey deploys extremists to Libya, local militias say

By SAM MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Syrian militants affiliated with groups such as al-Qaida and the Islamic State group are currently being sent by Turkey to fight on behalf of the U.N.-supported government in Libya, according to two Libyan militia leaders and a Syrian war monitor.

Both sides in Libya's civil war receive equipment and backing from foreign countries. But Turkey, which has long trained and funded opposition fighters in Syria and relaxed its borders so foreign fighters joined IS, has in recent months been airlifting hundreds of them over to a new theater of war in Libya.

The U.N.-supported government controls only a shrinking area of western Libya, including the capital, Tripoli. It's facing a months-long offensive by forces loyal to Gen. Khalifa Hifter who is allied with a rival government based in Libya's east. The United Nations recognizes the government in Tripoli, led by Prime Minister Fayez Sarraj, as Libya's legitimate government because it was born out of U.N.-mediated talks in 2015.

Sarraj is backed by Turkey, and to a lesser degree, Qatar and Italy. Hifter receives backing from the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, as well as France and Russia. Libya has the ninth largest known oil reserves in the world, and many of these countries are apparently jockeying for influence in order to control Libya's resources.

Libyan militia leaders in Tripoli told The Associated Press that Turkey has brought more than 4,000 foreign fighters into Tripoli, and that "dozens" of them are extremist-affiliated. The two commanders spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter with the media.

The commanders also highlighted differing opinions within the Libyan militias about accepting Syrian extremists into their ranks. One said the fighters' backgrounds aren't important, as long as they've come to help defend the capital. The other said some commanders fear the fighters will "tarnish" the image of the Tripoli-based government.

Turkey-backed militias in northern Syria have been known to include fighters that previously fought with al-Qaida, IS and other militant groups, and have committed atrocities against Syrian Kurdish groups and civilians.

The U.N. has repeatedly condemned the flow of weapons and foreign fighters into Libya. But the orga-

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nization has not directly responded to reports and accusations by Hifter's side that Sarraj's government and Turkey are apparently using IS- and al-Qaida-linked extremists as mercenaries.

Turkey has not confirmed or denied reports of Syrian fighters being sent to Libya to support Sarraj, and the Turkish military did not respond to requests for comment.

However, in a televised interview last month, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said: "As a combat force, we will have a different team there. They won't be from within our soldiers. Those different teams and the combat forces will work together. But our high-ranking soldiers will coordinate." He did not elaborate.

Rumors of Turkey-backed Syrian fighters in Libya have swirled for weeks. Foreign leaders and commentators have pointed to videos circulated online that appear to show Syrians in Tripoli. In one video, a man with a Syrian accent films the dormitories where he and other fighters are living, saying "Thank God, we arrived safely in Libya." Another clip shows a plane full of fighters, some wearing fatigues and speaking with Syrian accents.

Turkey's Libyan allies and Syrian opposition leaders have denied any organized efforts to send combatants to Libya. But in January, Sarraj told the BBC that his government "would not hesitate to cooperate with any party to defeat this aggression" by Hifter's forces.

Rami Abdurrahman, the director of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, told the AP that his war-monitoring network has determined there are at least 130 former Islamic State or al-Qaida fighters among the approximately 4,700 Turkey-backed Syrian mercenaries sent to fight for Sarraj.

He said the IS militants had joined the so-called Syrian National Army, a patchwork alliance formed by Turkey from different factions who battled the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad. Most of the groups are loyal to Turkey, and the SNA was used as shock troops last year in Turkey's offensive against U.S.-allied Kurdish forces in northern Syria.

In theory, a cease-fire brokered by Russia and Turkey remains in place around Tripoli but Libya's warring sides have traded accusations of violations, and the shaky truce is threatened by clashes. Representatives from Sarraj and Hifter began meetings in Geneva on Tuesday to work toward a more permanent cease-fire.

The Observatory also quoted a Syrian fighter from Idlib province who applied to go to Libya as saying he was motivated by the financial benefits offered by Turkey.

Elizabeth Tsurkov, a fellow at the U.S.-based Foreign Policy Research Institute who closely follows Syria's armed groups, said the promise of payment, Turkish citizenship or the prospect of fleeing to Europe were the main motives of Syrian fighters sent to Libya.

"None of them are committed to the fight in Libya due to personal conviction or ideology," she said.

A Libyan official at the prime minister's office said Syrian fighters have been in Libya since early August. At first, he said they were only facilitating the work of Turkish military experts. But as the fighting escalated in mid-December, the number of Syrian fighters arriving in Libya increased. These fighters now immediately deploy to the front lines, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk to reporters on the subject.

The Tripoli authorities and U.S. officials have also accused Hifter of relying on hundreds of Russian mercenaries. Sudanese armed groups from the Darfur region recently joined the fighting on both sides, according to a report by U.N. experts.

The influx of Syrian, Russian and Sudanese mercenaries has threatened to prolong the war and cripple international efforts to establish a long-term cease-fire. Last month, a summit in Berlin brought together the major international stakeholders in Libya, but with few concrete results.

Nicholas Heras, a Syria expert at the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War, said Turkey is focusing on Libya to establish a sphere of influence in the Mediterranean.

"However, the Turks do not want to risk significant casualties to their own forces when the Turkish military has built a proxy force of Syrian fighters that can reinforce the Libyan fighters," he said.

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Associated Press writers Sarah El Deeb in Beirut and Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

## Photos of 'king tides' globally show risks of climate change

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

DEPOE BAY, Ore. (AP) — Tourists, nature lovers and amateur scientists are whipping out their cameras to document the effects of extreme high tides on shorelines from the United States to New Zealand, and by doing so are helping better predict what rising sea levels will mean for coastal communities around the world.

A network of volunteer photographers fans out around the globe during so-called king tides to capture how high the waterline gets and where the water goes. They then upload the images — many with geo-location data embedded — for use by scientists, policymakers and even city planners as they study and prepare for the effects of climate change. The photos show where flooding occurs on specific roads, or give clues about whether it's safe to build new housing, for example, near an eroding bluff.

"For us, the king tide offers a look at where the water will be in about 2050, about a foot to a foot and half (30 to 46 centimeters) above normal water levels," said Skip Stiles, executive director of Wetlands Watch, a nonprofit that helped recruit 700 people to document a king tide in Norfolk, Virginia, for the first time there in 2017.

The group's efforts have since grown into a smartphone app that uses crowdsourcing to gather images and pinpoint flooding.

"What we're finding is there's a real appetite for this data. A lot of the localities here are putting together comprehensive plans for sea level rise, and I'm getting calls from them saying, 'Do you have data? Do you have photos?' That's what we're going for."

The first of these King Tide Projects involving the public began in 2009 in Australia. The idea has since spread to more than a dozen coastal states in the U.S., British Columbia, New Zealand, Mauritius and beyond.

King tides occur about twice a year in coastal areas worldwide when the sun and moon align to enhance the gravitational pull that produces normal, daily tides. These super-high tides came into sharp focus in January, when one arrived in Oregon on the same day as a major winter storm, creating 15- to 20-foot (4.6- to 6.1-meter) waves and a massive swell that sucked a man and his two young children out to sea. The woman who called 911 had been photographing the tides from her yard for the Oregon King Tides Project. The children, ages 4 and 7, died.

Citizen scientists are preparing to document this winter's final king tide Feb. 8-10 off the U.S. West Coast, followed by one in New Zealand on Feb. 12.

Flooding from king tides is a preview of how sea level rise will affect coastal communities — and warmer oceans and bigger storms could amplify those changes, said Peter Ruggiero, interim executive director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute. Modeling shows Oregon could experience sea level rise of as little as a foot (30 centimeters) or as great as 6 feet (1.8 meters) in a worst-case scenario, he said.

Some of these King Tide Projects, like the one in Oregon, are run by nonprofit groups, while others are in partnership with state and local governments. They all have the same goal: to educate the public and provide a clear-eyed assessment of how climate change will affect everyday life, from flooded intersections to cows grazing in knee-high salt water, to popular beaches swallowed by waves.

"A lot of the conversation around climate change was what was happening far away and not about what people were going to be experiencing in their own lives," said Marina Psaros, who helped develop California's King Tides Project. "The goal of the project was to get people thinking more about climate change locally instead of just polar bears."

In Georgia, coastal communities constantly struggle with flooding from high tides and storms — a phenomenon dubbed "sunny day flooding" in places across the U.S. South. Chatham County, home to the low-lying city of Savannah, uses dozens of sea level sensors to track tides and collect data for future city planning. It has also begun asking people to snap pictures during flooding.

"The combination of the sensor data and the photos really helps build out the story — and with that, we hope it will solidify funding decisions better," said Nick Deffley, Savannah's director of sustainability.

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When Auckland, New Zealand, organized its first king tide photo event, people sent in images of flooded parks and freeway underpasses. They shared them with local government, and some of the images were used to develop a plan to reinforce a popular but rapidly eroding beach.

Last year, they expanded the program to include a series of tide gauges that are checked regularly by citizen scientists, said Ben Sheeran, founder of the New Zealand King Tide Project.

"There's no eureka moment where it all comes into play, but it's an evolving database of information that's there when needed," he said. "And the data we get are a vehicle for people to continue that conversation."

It's a conversation that remains lively in places like Oregon, where king tides mean periodic flooding of large parts of the coast.

Last year, two volunteers took photos of it from an airplane, capturing striking images of swamped farmhouses, flooded freeway on-ramps, and miles and miles of salt water-soaked agricultural land.

"That flight was my first vision of homes with water looking like it was within feet of coming up into the home. And you had pastures and farm animals out there that looked like these little dots on an island," said Rena Olson, who shot the images along with Alex Derr.

The two hope to go up again this weekend.

"Seeing that over such a large area, it really opened my eyes," Olson said. "This is impactful."

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>

## AP sources: Red Sox agree to trade Betts, Price to Dodgers

By JIMMY GOLEN AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Banking on Mookie Betts to be the missing piece in their World Series pursuit, the Los Angeles Dodgers finally pulled off a blockbuster deal with the cost-cutting Red Sox.

Boston agreed to trade the 2018 AL MVP to the Dodgers on Tuesday night, according to two people with knowledge of the deal, packaging Betts with left-hander David Price in a salary dump designed to save the Red Sox tens of millions of dollars and help them dip below baseball's luxury tax threshold.

The Dodgers, eager for a World Series title after losing in the 2017 and '18 Fall Classics, are sending outfielder Alex Verdugo back to the Red Sox. The deal also involves the Minnesota Twins, who are getting right-hander Kenta Maeda from the Dodgers and sending pitching prospect Brusdar Graterol to Boston. Los Angeles will also get cash from Boston to offset some of the \$123 million owed to Betts and Price, but the exact amount was not yet known.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade, pending the exchange of medical information, had not been announced.

Betts, who will earn \$27 million this season, has spurned nine-figure offers from the Red Sox for a long-term deal and expressed eagerness to test the free agent market. Boston decided to move him now — a century after selling Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees — rather than let the four-time All-Star walk after the 2020 season.

One of baseball's best all-around talents, the popular Betts should fit nicely into a Dodgers lineup that also includes reigning NL MVP Cody Bellinger. Los Angeles has won seven straight NL West titles but hasn't celebrated a World Series championship since 1988. They fell in 2018 against Betts and the Red Sox, a year after being defeated by the Houston Astros in seven games.

Price is due \$96 million over the final three years of a \$217 million, seven-year deal he signed before the 2016 season. The 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner missed time last year with a wrist issue and went 7-5 with a 4.28 ERA in 22 starts.

The Dodgers finally pulled off the kind of splashy offseason deal that has eluded them in recent years. They lost out on two primary offseason pursuits when pitcher Gerrit Cole signed with the New York Yankees for \$324 million over nine years and third baseman Anthony Rendon signed a \$245 million, seven-year contract with the rival Angels.

Until now, the Dodgers' top addition this winter was reliever Blake Treinen.

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Adding Betts' bat to a lineup that includes Bellinger, Justin Turner, Max Muncy and Corey Seager makes the Dodgers even more fearsome. Their offense led the National League with 886 runs and 279 home runs last year.

Verdugo, a left-handed hitter, batted .294 with 44 RBIs and 12 home runs in 106 games before a back injury in August ended his season early. His outfield defense is average, but at 23 he has time to improve.

Betts' departure deepens the disappointment in Boston, where the New England Patriots sat out the Super Bowl for the first time in four years and face the prospect of quarterback Tom Brady leaving as a free agent. The Red Sox are now without the best player, the top executive and the manager who led them to a franchise-record 108 wins and the World Series championship a year ago.

The deal makes sense only in the complicated economics of baseball's collective bargaining tax, which penalizes a team for spending over a preset limit — \$208 million for 2020. What's more, a ballclub that surpasses the threshold in three straight years pays a top rate of 95%; on the other hand, if a team goes under the limit for a season, the penalty for their next violation resets to the lowest rate of 20%.

This deal is expected to get Boston below that threshold.

Owner John Henry said in September, after the team missed the playoffs for the first time since 2015, that the Red Sox "need to be under the CBT." Team president Sam Kennedy later walked back the comments and said that was "a goal but not a mandate." After he was hired, Chief Baseball Officer Chaim Bloom said: "The goal remains to be competitive always. 2020 is important. So are 2021, 2022 and beyond."

Undoubtedly, the focus is now on the future.

The Red Sox remain without a manager three weeks after firing Alex Cora for his role in the Houston Astros 2017 sign-stealing scandal; Major League Baseball has not announced the results of its investigation into whether Cora implemented a similar scheme when he took over in Boston in '18. Pitchers and catchers are due to report to spring training in one week.

The new manager will need to sort out a lineup that is missing a player who batted leadoff and won four straight Gold Gloves in the outfield, as well as Price, a five-time All-Star.

Red Sox slugger J.D. Martinez was among the first to react to reports of the deal on social media, sending out only a sad-face emoji.

Graterol is a hard-throwing righty who ranked 83rd on MLB.com's most recent list of the top 100 prospects in baseball. He made his major league debut last season with the Twins and posted a 4.66 ERA in 10 relief appearances. A starter in the minors, he faces questions about his durability but could get a chance to pitch in Boston's rotation. If not, he's thrown as hard as 102 mph and could be an effective late-inning reliever.

AP Baseball Writer Mike Fitzpatrick in New York and AP Sports Writer Beth Harris in Los Angeles contributed.

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

## Biden's poor showing in Iowa shakes establishment support

By **BILL BARROW** and **BRIAN SLODYSKO** Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Joe Biden's third presidential bid enters a critical stretch after a disappointing finish in the Iowa caucuses sent the former vice president on to New Hampshire with a skittish donor base, low cash reserves and the looming threat of billionaire rival Michael Bloomberg and his unlimited personal wealth.

In New Hampshire on Tuesday, Biden insisted he had a "good night" in Iowa even as he trailed the top moderate candidate, former Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, and the leading progressive, Bernie Sanders, according to initial returns from 71% of precincts. Biden was running fourth, close to Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who just days ago polled in single digits.

That leaves some establishment Democrats, including some Biden supporters, questioning his contention that he'll reclaim clear front-runner status in the race against President Donald Trump once the primary

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fight moves beyond overwhelmingly white Iowa and New Hampshire to more racially diverse electorates. And it's a reminder of how Biden's previous presidential campaigns never advanced beyond Iowa.

"If he came in fourth, yeah, that could hurt," said Bill Freeman, a Biden donor from Nashville, Tennessee, who added that he hadn't even considered such a possibility heading into Monday's caucuses. "That's a bad night, no matter how you spin it."

Most precarious for Biden: Some of the would-be donors he could win over with a strong showing are giving new looks to Bloomberg, the former New York City mayor whose entire strategy of sitting out the four early nominating states is pegged to the possibility that Biden falters. Bloomberg, one of the world's wealthiest men with a net worth approaching \$60 billion, isn't asking for money. He's simply looking for support that could cut off financial lifelines to Biden, whose campaign reported just \$9 million cash on hand to start the year.

That's patronage Biden needs to remain competitive with Buttigieg, as well as Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Sanders, who have raised massive sums from small-dollar online contributors who have been far less generous to Biden.

Alex Sink, a Democratic donor who hosted Hillary Clinton in the 2016 race, said many donors are holding back, waiting to see how Biden does. They are also keeping an open mind about Bloomberg, whose campaign asked Sink last week to attend an event in Tampa.

"I was anxious to do it because, like so many others, I'm curious and interested and worried about who our candidate will be and how we are going to beat Trump," she said. "Most of my friends don't know yet who they are voting for."

Biden aides have said for months that he didn't have to win in Iowa or on Feb. 11 in New Hampshire because he was better positioned in Nevada's Feb. 22 caucuses, South Carolina's Feb. 29 primary and a slate of March 3 primaries with more than a third of Democrats' national delegates at stake on a single day.

That never meant, however, that Biden could sustain a bad showing in Iowa and New Hampshire. The approach was also an expensive one, requiring deep campaign reserves to finance advertising and staffing in Nevada, South Carolina and delegate-rich states like California and Texas.

Biden has a campaign footprint across the March primary map, with paid staff or volunteer offices in 13 states. But his cash flow raises questions about how much he can bolster his existing operation. His uneasy financial situation is underscored by an affiliated super PAC that spent more on Iowa ads than the campaign itself, but still has struggled to raise money and has little left over after Iowa.

"Will he have as much money as Bernie Sanders? Probably no. But it doesn't matter — all you need is enough gas to finish the race," said John Morgan, a Florida plaintiffs attorney and one of Biden's top fundraisers.

Freeman and Morgan agreed that Biden needs to finish in the top 3 in New Hampshire and ideally as the top moderate. That reflects what had been the quiet hope of Biden's team heading into Monday's caucuses. They didn't necessarily expect to win outright. But they hoped that they could emerge from Iowa as the clear alternative to Sanders, a democratic socialist and leader of the left's progressive base.

An effectively two-person race between Sanders and the former vice president, Biden confidants believed, would open the financial spigot, firm up his advantages among nonwhite voters and win over skeptical white moderates now aligned with Buttigieg or Klobuchar.

"That's my conversation with people: If Bernie Sanders is the nominee, would you vote for him?" Morgan said. "If not, then back Joe."

Biden took the same approach Tuesday on the campaign trail, hammering Sanders as directly as he has in weeks. "It's time to get real about health care," he said as he compared his proposal to expand existing insurance markets with a "public option" to Sanders' "Medicare for All" idea. Sanders has been pushing single-payer insurance for "30 years now," Biden said, and "hasn't moved it an inch."

The problem, Freeman said, is that a lackluster start in Iowa makes the Biden-Sanders juxtaposition a much harder sell. "I don't think any of those conversations are happening today" with potential new donors, he said.

Still, Buttigieg and Klobuchar have their own challenges if they hope to displace Biden as the presumed establishment favorite. They both have negligible nonwhite support, and Klobuchar especially has far more financial obstacles than Biden.

Clay Middleton, a South Carolina Democrat who worked for Clinton in 2016 and Cory Booker's now-suspended campaign this presidential cycle, said that Iowa doesn't have to bury Biden but that he and every other candidate faces a delicate path trying to amass delegates going forward.

"The conditions are not the same now," Middleton said, referring to when Biden dropped his 2008 bid after Barack Obama won the 2008 caucuses. "But again, does he have infrastructure in South Carolina to win four out of the seven congressional districts, and does he have the infrastructure in Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas, as part of his Super Tuesday strategy? That's the real test."

Slodysko reported from Cedar Falls, Iowa. Associated Press writers Hunter Woodall in Nashua, N.H., and Meg Kinnard in Columbia, S.C., contributed to this report.

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

## Trump impeachment acquittal on track ahead of Senate vote

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is on the verge of acquittal by the Senate, an end to only the third presidential impeachment trial in American history but coming at the start of a tumultuous campaign for the White House.

A majority of senators have now expressed unease with Trump's pressure campaign on Ukraine that resulted in the two articles of impeachment. But there's nowhere near the two-thirds support necessary in Republican-held Senate for the Constitution's bar of high crimes and misdemeanors to convict and remove the president from office.

The outcome expected Wednesday caps nearly five months of remarkable impeachment proceedings launched in Speaker Nancy Pelosi's House, ending in Mitch McConnell's Senate and reflective of the nation's unrelenting partisan divide three years into the Trump presidency.

No president has ever been removed by the Senate, and Trump arrived at the Capitol for his State of the Union address on the eve of the vote eager to use the tally as vindication, a political anthem in his reelection bid. Allies chanted "four more years!"

The president did not mention impeachment, nor did he have to. The mood was tense in the House that impeached him. Pelosi tore up the speech when he was done.

The Wednesday afternoon vote is expected to be swift. With Chief Justice John Roberts presiding, senators sworn to do "impartial justice" will stand at their desk for the roll call and state their votes — "guilty" or "not guilty."

On the first article of impeachment, Trump is charged with abuse of power. On the second, obstruction of Congress.

Few senators are expected to stray from party camps, all but ensuring the highly partisan impeachment yields deeply partisan acquittal. Both Bill Clinton in the 1999 and Andrew Johnson in 1868 drew cross-party support when they were left in office after an impeachment trial. President Richard Nixon resigned rather than face revolt from his own party.

Ahead of voting, some of the most closely watched senators took to the Senate floor to tell their constituents, and the nation, what they had decided. The Senate chaplain has been opening the trial proceedings with daily prayers for the senators.

"This decision is not about whether you like or dislike this president," began GOP Sen. Susan Collins, the Maine centrist, announcing her resolve to acquit on both charges.

GOP Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio said that while he doesn't condone Trump's actions, he was not prepared

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to remove him from the ballot nine months before the election. "Let the people decide," he said.

Centrist Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia has floated the idea of censuring Trump instead, a signal of a possible vote to acquit. Democratic Sen. Doug Jones, a former federal prosecutor seeking re-election in strongly pro-Trump Alabama, told reporters he's likely to announce his vote Wednesday morning.

Most Democrats, though, echoed the House managers' warnings that Trump, if left unchecked, would continue to abuse the power of his office for personal political gain and try to "cheat" again ahead of the the 2020 election.

During the nearly three-week trial, House Democrats prosecuting the case argued that Trump abused power like no other president in history when he pressured Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden ahead of the 2020 election.

They detailed an extraordinary shadow diplomacy run by Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani that set off alarms at the highest levels of government. Trump, after asking Ukraine's president for "a favor" in a July 25 phone call, temporarily halted U.S. aid to the struggling ally battling hostile Russia at its border.

When the House probed Trump's actions, he instructed White House aides to defy congressional subpoenas, leading to the obstruction charge.

Questions from the Ukraine matter continue to swirl. House Democrats may yet summon former national security adviser John Bolton to testify about revelations from his forthcoming book that offer a fresh account of Trump's actions. Other eyewitnesses and documents are almost sure to surface.

In closing arguments for the trial the lead prosecutor, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., appealed to senators' sense of decency, that "right matters" and "truth matters" and that Trump "is not who you are."

"You can't trust this president to do the right thing, not for one minute, not for one election, not for the sake our country," Schiff intoned. "He will not change. And you know it."

Pelosi was initially reluctant to launch impeachment proceedings against Trump when she took control of the House after the 2018 election, dismissively telling more liberal voices that "he's not worth it."

Trump and his GOP allies in Congress argue that Democrats have been trying to undercut him from the start. Trump calls both special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election and the impeachment probe a "hoax" and says he did nothing wrong.

But a whistleblower complaint of his conversation with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy set off alarms. When Trump told Pelosi in September that the call was perfect, she was stunned. "Perfectly wrong," she said. Days later, the speaker announced the formal impeachment inquiry.

The result is a 28,000-page record from the House, based on testimony from 17 witnesses, including national security officials and ambassadors, in public and private depositions and House hearings.

The result was the quickest, most partisan impeachment in U.S. history, with no Republicans joining the House Democrats to vote for the charges. The Republican Senate kept up the pace with the fastest trial ever, and the first with no witnesses or deliberations.

Trump's celebrity legal team with attorney Alan Dershowitz made the sweeping, if stunning, assertion that even if the president engaged in the quid pro quo as described, it is not impeachable, because politicians often view their own political interest with the national interest.

McConnell commands a 53-47 Republican majority and braced against dissent. Some GOP senators distanced themselves from Trump's defense, and other Republicans brushed back calls from conservatives to disclose the name of the anonymous whistleblower. The Associated Press typically does not reveal the identity of whistleblowers.

Trump's approval rating, which has generally languished in the mid- to low-40s, hit a new high of 49% in the latest Gallup polling, which was conducted as the Senate trial was drawing to a close. The poll found that 51% of the public views the Republican Party favorably, the first time the GOP's number has exceeded 50% since 2005.

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

## Analysis: Iowa Democrats drawn to two faces of change

By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iowa Democrats were drawn to two faces of change.

After a daylong delay, partial results from the state's Democratic caucuses showed Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, with a narrow lead over Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

By many measures, Buttigieg, 38, and Sanders, 78, are a study in contrast. They are the youngest and oldest candidates in the Democratic primary. Buttigieg has campaigned as a moderate, calling for more incremental improvements to the nation's health care and higher education systems, while Sanders — a self-described democratic socialist — is urging sweeping overhauls of domestic policies.

Yet both are pitching themselves as an antidote to establishment forces in Washington that many voters, in both parties, feel have left them behind. And their early success in this primary season suggests Democrats are just as interested in a fresh approach as Republicans were four years ago when they stunned their party's establishment by nominating Donald Trump, a novice politician and reality television star.

"There's still a desire for change," said Karen Finney, who advised Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign. "And elections are always about the future."

The Iowa Democratic Party released 71% of results on Tuesday after delays prompted by sweeping technical issues paralyzed the caucus system. The Associated Press has not yet declared a winner of the contest, which kicks off Democrats' months-long process to pick a nominee to face off against Trump in November.

Both Buttigieg and Sanders have faced questions about their electability in the general election. Democratic rivals have knocked Buttigieg's inexperience, given that his highest elected office has been as mayor of a city of 100,000. And party moderates fear that Sanders will turn off independents and centrist Republicans who may be seeking an alternative to Trump.

Yet the early results, as well as an AP survey of Iowa Democrats, offered a glimpse of how Sanders and Buttigieg gained ground on their rivals. They hold a sizable lead in particular over former Vice President Joe Biden, whose centrist campaign has focused in part on a call for a reset in Washington after the Trump the era.

Among Sanders' supporters, 88% said it was more important to vote for a candidate who will fundamentally change the political system than a candidate who will restore the system to what it was before Trump was elected in 2016. Just over 70 percent of Buttigieg supporters felt the same, according to AP VoteCast.

"The fact that a young gay mayor from a small Midwestern town and a nearly 80-year-old self-proclaimed socialist appear to be leading the pack out of the first primary contest should make Democrats question their long held prognostications about what the party is looking for in a nominee," said Jennifer Psaki, a former campaign and White House aide to President Barack Obama.

Buttigieg leaned into that call for change Tuesday in New Hampshire, the next state on the primary calendar. Democrats, he argued, win when they nominate presidential candidates who can "turn the page" on the past and usher in the voices of a new generation.

"In order to govern, in order to lead, in order to move this country forward, we need a president focused on the future and ready to leave the politics of the past in the past," Buttigieg said during a high-energy event Tuesday night in Concord, New Hampshire.

Buttigieg would be the youngest person ever elected president, and also the nation's first openly gay commander in chief. Sanders would be the oldest person ever to serve as president.

Sanders has also spent three decades in Washington, first in the House and then in the Senate. But he's largely served as an independent, floating on the fringes of the Democratic Party before breaking out in the 2016 presidential primary and emerging as a fierce challenger to establishment favorite Hillary Clinton.

During his own rally in New Hampshire on Tuesday, he urged his supporters to help him finish the job he started during that campaign.

"Let us create the political revolution this country needs," he declared.

There are others in the Democratic field who have called for transformational change in Washington,

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namely Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who shares many of Sanders' progressive views. Warren trails Sanders and Buttigieg in the partial Iowa results, but is expected to be competitive in the New Hampshire primary.

The Democratic field indeed remains crowded coming out of Iowa, and billionaire Michael Bloomberg is waiting for the candidates when the race shifts to the March Super Tuesday contests. But the early Iowa results offer a preview for what could become a head-to-head contest between the party's moderate and liberal flanks.

Among Sanders supporters, 45% identified as "very liberal," and another 26% said they were somewhat liberal, according to VoteCast. Nearly two-thirds of Buttigieg's supporters were self-described moderates.

Buttigieg has staked out more moderate positions on some of the major issues that have roiled the Democratic primary, most notably health care. Unlike Sanders, who backs a government-run, Medicare for all system, Buttigieg has said he would offer public health care to those who want it, while allowing others to keep private insurance.

But Buttigieg is also staking out forward-leaning positions on a range of other issues. He's called for scrapping the Electoral College and adding more seats to the Supreme Court.

As he addressed supporters before departing Iowa late Monday, Buttigieg echoed the speech Obama delivered in the state after his surprise 2008 caucus victory, declaring that Iowa had "shocked the nation."

It was Iowa that helped Obama shake off questions about his own electability, catapulting him to the Democratic nomination and ultimately the White House. Both Buttigieg and Sanders now hope the state can do the same for them.

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Julie Pace has covered the White House and politics for The Associated Press since 2007. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

AP polling writer Hannah Fingerhut in Washington and AP writer Kathleen Ronayne in Concord, New Hampshire, contributed to this report.

## Buttigieg slightly leading Sanders in partial Iowa results

By **STEVE PEOPLES, THOMAS BEAUMONT and ALEXANDRA JAFFE** Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The Iowa Democratic Party released partial results of its kickoff presidential caucus after a daylong delay late Tuesday showing former Midwestern mayor Pete Buttigieg with a slight lead over progressive Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the opening contest of the party's 2020 primary season.

The results followed 24 hours of chaos as technical problems marred the complicated caucus process, forcing state officials to apologize and raising questions about Iowa's traditional place atop the presidential primary calendar.

It was too early to call a winner based on the initial results, but Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, former Vice President Joe Biden and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar were trailing in the tally of State Delegate Equivalents, according to data released for the first time by the Iowa Democratic Party nearly 24 hours after voting concluded.

The results reflected 71% of precincts in the state.

The two early leaders, Buttigieg and Sanders, were separated by 40 years in age, conflicting ideology and more.

Sanders, a 78-year-old self-described democratic socialist, has been a progressive powerhouse for decades, while the 38-year-old Buttigieg's early standing cemented his transformation from a little-known Indiana mayor to a legitimate force in the 2020 contest. Buttigieg is also the first openly gay candidate to earn presidential primary delegates.

"We don't know all of the numbers, but we know this much: A campaign that started a year ago with four staff members, no name recognition, no money, just a big idea — a campaign that some said should have

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no business even making this attempt — has taken its place at the front of this race,” Buttigieg, declared, his voice filled with emotion, as he campaigned in next-up New Hampshire with his husband looking on.

Buttigieg’s early rise was rivaled for possible importance by the struggle of another moderate, Biden.

One of his party’s most accomplished figures, the former two-term vice president and longtime senator was mired in the second tier of Iowa candidates with almost two-thirds of precincts reporting. Biden’s campaign sought to downplay the caucus results even before they were released, hardly a measure of strength for a high-profile contender who has led national polls for most of the last year.

“We believe we will emerge with the delegates we need to continue on our path to nomination,” said Symone Sanders, a senior adviser.

While all campaigns were eager to spin the Iowa results to their advantage, there was little immediate indication that the incomplete results erased the confusion and concern that loomed over the caucuses. It was unclear when the full results would be released.

During a private conference call with campaigns earlier in the day, state party chairman Troy Price declined to answer pointed questions about the timeline -- even whether it would be days or weeks.

“We have been working day and night to make sure these results are accurate,” Price said at a subsequent press conference.

The leading candidates pressed on in New Hampshire, which votes in just seven days. And billionaire Democrat Michael Bloomberg sensed opportunity, saying he would double his already massive advertising campaign and expand his sprawling staff focused on a series of delegate-rich states voting next month.

The party’s caucus crisis was an embarrassing twist after months of promoting Iowa as a chance for Democrats to find some clarity in a jumbled field. Instead, after a buildup that featured seven rounds of debates, nearly \$1 billion spent nationwide and a year of political jockeying, caucus day ended with no winner, no official results and many fresh questions about whether Iowa can retain its coveted “first” status.

Iowa marked the first contest in a primary season that will span all 50 states and several U.S. territories, ending at the party’s national convention in July.

Before he left Iowa late Monday, Sanders said, “Today marks the beginning of the end for Donald Trump.”

Facing New Hampshire voters a day later, Sanders said thank you to Iowa and, tongue in cheek, expressed confidence that New Hampshire election officials would have more success counting votes.

“And when you count those votes, I look forward to winning here,” he said.

For the first time, the Iowa Democratic Party reported three sets of results this year: a tally of caucus-goers’ initial candidate preference; vote totals from the “final alignment” after supporters of lower-ranking candidates were able to make a second choice, and the total number of State Delegate Equivalents each candidate received.

The Associated Press will declare a winner based on the number of state delegates each candidate wins, which has been the traditional standard.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who represents Iowa neighbor Minnesota, was also in the early running, while outsider candidates including entrepreneur Andrew Yang, billionaire activist Tom Steyer and Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard lagged behind.

Campaigning in New Hampshire on Tuesday, Warren also said she was “feeling good” about her performance in Iowa.

The state party told campaigns Tuesday the problem was a result of a “coding issue in the reporting system” that it said had since been fixed. It said it had verified the accuracy of the collected data and said the problem was not a result of “a hack or an intrusion.”

A Biden campaign representative objected to the party’s plan to release partial results before checking them against paper records, saying in the conference call that the plan didn’t address “growing reports” about problems on caucus night, such as precinct captains unable to get through on the phone to report results.

Sanders adviser Jeff Weaver thanked party officials, and encouraged other campaigns not to undermine the party.

“Folks who are just trying to delay the return of this because of their relative positioning in the results

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last night, I think that's a bit disingenuous," Weaver said.

Bloomberg announced plans to double his national television advertising spending — which has already exceeded \$100 million — as he expands his paid staff to more than 2,000 people.

Bloomberg is looking to next month, having decided to bypass Iowa's contest and the three other states voting this month in favor of the delegate-rich states in March.

"After more than a year of this primary, the field is as unsettled as ever," Bloomberg spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said. "No one has made the sale or even come close to it."

Beyond 2020, Monday's debacle invited fresh criticism about Iowa caucuses, a complicated set of political meetings staged in a state that is whiter and older than the Democratic Party in general. Many questioned anew whether it was a quaint political tradition whose time had passed.

"I think Iowa is a dumpster fire," said Dick Harpootlian, a South Carolina state senator and longtime Biden supporter, who served as an Iowa precinct captain for Biden on Monday.

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

## **AP FACT CHECK: Trump's exaggerated 'great American comeback'**

**By JOSH BOAK, CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The "great American comeback" President Donald Trump claimed in his State of the Union speech drew on falsehoods about U.S. energy supremacy, health care and the economy as well as distortions about his predecessor's record.

In arguing, in essence, that he has made America great again, Trump took credit for an energy boom that actually began under Barack Obama in an assertion he recycled from his last State of the Union address. He inflated manufacturing gains, misrepresented policy on migrant detention and glossed over a rate of economic growth that has yet to reach the scale he promised.

A look at some of his statements Tuesday night and how they compare with the facts:

### **IMMIGRATION**

**TRUMP:** "Before I came into office, if you showed up illegally on our southern border and were arrested, you were simply released and allowed into our country, never to be seen again. My administration has ended catch-and-release. If you come illegally, you will now be promptly removed."

**THE FACTS:** Not true. Under previous administrations, Mexicans were quickly returned back over the U.S.-Mexico border, while others were held in detention until they were deported. Some migrants from other countries were released into the interior of the United States to wait out their immigration cases.

And despite Trump's claims that all migrants are now "promptly" removed, there is a 1 million immigration court case backlog, which means many migrants wait up to three years before a court hearing before a judge who will determine whether someone is deported. And after a judge rules a migrant deported, travel papers must be obtained, which often leads to further delays.

As for ending "catch and release," Trump actually expanded that policy last year during a surge in migrants, releasing thousands of migrants who flooded shelters along the border. The surge has since passed, so fewer people are being held and fewer would need to be released. But an effort by immigration officials to detain children indefinitely was blocked by a judge, so children are still released into the country.

### **OIL AND GAS**

**TRUMP:** "Thanks to our bold regulatory reduction campaign, the United States has become the number one producer of oil and natural gas, anywhere in the world, by far."

**THE FACTS:** Trump is taking credit for a U.S. oil and gas production boom that started under Obama. The U.S. Energy Information Administration says the U.S. has been the world's top natural gas producer since 2009, top petroleum hydrocarbon producer since 2013, and top crude oil producer since 2018.

That's owing to a U.S. shale boom that has driven production up since 2011, not to deregulation or any other new effort by the Trump administration.

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## JOBS and ECONOMY

TRUMP: "In eight years under the last administration, over 300,000 working-age people dropped out of the workforce. In just three years of my administration, 3.5 million working-age people have joined the workforce."

THE FACTS: Trump is being misleading with numbers to tarnish his predecessor's record. It's not clear what he means by "working-age." But the total size of the U.S. labor force shows that the president is just wrong.

During the eight years of Barack Obama's presidency, the labor force rose by 5.06 million, according to the Labor Department. The improvement reflected a rebounding economy from the Great Recession and population growth.

As the unemployment rate has fallen, more people are finding it attractive to work and joining the labor force. This has enabled the labor force to climb by an impressive 4.86 million in just three years under Trump.

TRUMP: "The USMCA will create nearly 100,000 new high-paying American auto jobs, and massively boost exports for our farmers, ranchers and factory workers."

THE FACTS: The president is exaggerating.

The U.S. International Trade Commission examined the deal with Canada and Mexico in an April report. The report estimated that the deal would add only 28,000 auto industry jobs six years after the deal is implemented. Separately, government officials are quoted in the report saying they believe the sector would add 76,000 jobs based on their methodology.

It's still not the 100,000 jobs claimed by Trump.

TRUMP: "From the instant I took office, I moved rapidly to revive the U.S. economy — slashing a record number of job killing-regulations, enacting historic and record-setting tax cuts, and fighting for fair and reciprocal trade agreements.

THE FACTS: The U.S. economy indeed is healthy, but it's had plenty of hiccups during the Trump administration.

Trump never quite managed to achieve the liftoff he promised during the 2016 election. Instead, gains have largely followed along the same lines of an expansion that started more than a decade ago under Obama.

Total economic growth last year was 2.3%. That is roughly in line with the average gains achieved after the Great Recession — and a far cry from growth of as much 3%, 4% or more that Trump told voters he could deliver.

The tax cuts did temporarily boost growth in 2018 as deficit spending increased. But the administration claimed its tax plan would increase business investment in way that could fuel lasting growth. For the past three quarters, business investment has instead declined.

It's too soon to judge the impact of the updated trade agreement with Mexico and Canada as well as the pact with China. But Trump premised his economic policy on wiping out the trade gap. Instead, the trade deficit has worsened under Trump.

## DRUG PRICES

TRUMP: "For the first time in 51 years, the cost of prescription drugs actually went down."

THE FACTS: Prices for prescription drugs have edged down, but that is driven by declines for generics. Prices for brand-name medications are still going up, although more moderately.

Nonpartisan government experts at the Department of Health and Human Services reported last year that prices for pharmacy prescriptions went down by 1% in 2018, the first such price drop in 45 years.

The department said the last time retail prescription drug prices declined was in 1973, when they went

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down by 0.2%.

## MANUFACTURING

TRUMP: "We are restoring our nation's manufacturing might, even though predictions were that this could never be done. After losing 60,000 factories under the previous two administrations, America has now gained 12,000 new factories under my administration."

THE FACTS: Not quite.

Manufacturing has slumped in the past year, after having advanced in the prior two years. The president's tariffs regime and slower growth worldwide hurt the sector in ways that suggest that Trump's policies robbed it of some of its previous strength.

Factory output fell 1.3% over the past 12 months, according to the Federal Reserve. Manufacturing job gains went from more than 260,000 at the end of 2018 to a paltry 46,000 for the 12 months ended in December, according to the Labor Department. Manufacturers lost jobs last year in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — the older industrial states where Trump had promised revival.

## HEALTH CARE

TRUMP: "We will always protect patients with preexisting conditions."

THE FACTS: That's a promise, not a guarantee.

The Trump administration is backing a lawsuit by conservative-led states that would overturn the entire Affordable Care Act, including its guarantees that people cannot be turned down or charged more for health insurance because of preexisting medical problems.

Trump and congressional Republicans have vowed they will protect people with preexisting conditions, but they have not specified how they would do that.

Estimates of how many people could potentially be affected if "Obamacare's" protections for preexisting conditions are eliminated range from about 54 million working-age adults, in a study last year from the Kaiser Family Foundation, to as many as 133 million people in a 2017 government study that also included children.

## SOCIAL SECURITY and MEDICARE

TRUMP: "We will always protect your Medicare and your Social Security."

THE FACTS: In a recent television interview, the president appeared to suggest that he's willing to consider entitlement cuts in the future.

During the CNBC interview, Trump was asked if tackling entitlements would ever be on his agenda. "At some point they will be," he responded.

As a candidate in 2016, Trump vowed not to cut benefit programs like Social Security and Medicare.

In the CNBC interview, Trump said dealing with entitlements would be "the easiest of all things" and suggested higher economic growth would make it easier to reduce spending on the programs.

Soon after the interview, Trump appeared to soften on the issue, tweeting about Social Security: "I have totally left it alone, as promised, and will save it!"

Associated Press writers Colleen Long, Ellen Knickmeyer, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Deb Riechmann contributed to this report.

EDITOR'S NOTE — A look at the veracity of claims by political figures.

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**Radio host Limbaugh awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom**

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By **MATTHEW DALY** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, during the State of the Union address Tuesday night.

Limbaugh, 69, a staunch supporter of President Donald Trump, announced Monday he is battling advanced lung cancer.

Trump said the diagnosis was not good news, but added, "What is good news is that he is the greatest fighter and winner that you will ever meet."

A bearded Limbaugh, seated next to first lady Melania Trump, looked stunned as the president announced the award. He eventually stood and saluted Trump and offered a thumbs-up to Republicans in the House chamber.

Melania Trump presented the award to Limbaugh, placing the blue-ribboned gold medal around his neck.

Trump thanked Limbaugh for "decades of tireless devotion to our country" and said the award recognized the millions of people a day Limbaugh speaks to and inspires, as well as his charity work.

Limbaugh said Monday he intends to work as much as possible. He also said he had focused more "intensely" in the past two weeks on what he called his "deeply personal relationship" with God.

Limbaugh is widely credited as key to Republicans' takeover of Congress in 1994 and has strongly supported Trump and other Republicans.

Limbaugh has frequently been accused of hate-filled speech, including bigotry and blatant racism through his comments and sketches such as "Barack the Magic Negro," a song featured on his show that said former President Barack Obama "makes guilty whites feel good" and called Obama "black, but not authentically."

His popularity has survived brickbats and thrived despite personal woes. In 2003, Limbaugh admitted an addiction to painkillers and entered rehabilitation.

## California may pause student fitness tests due to bullying

By **CUNEY DIL** Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to pause physical education tests for students for three years due to concerns over bullying and the test discriminating against disabled and non-binary students. The move also comes after annual test results show a growing percentage of students scoring not healthy.

H.D. Palmer, spokesman for the Department of Finance, said the state has received complaints that the current examination's measurement of body mass index is discriminatory to non-binary students. A measurement calculated from weight and height, BMI screenings require students to select "male" or "female," he said.

Annual state reports of the fitness test since the 2014-2015 school year show a steady decline in the share of students scoring healthy, according to a review by The Associated Press. Students' scores have particularly dropped in the category of the fitness test that measures "aerobic capacity" -- which can be tested in a one-mile run or by other methods. Other categories also test for flexibility and exercises like push-ups.

In the last five years, the percentage of fifth graders scoring healthy in the aerobic category has dropped by 3.3 percentage points. In seventh and ninth grades, the drops are 4.4 percentage points and 3.8 percentage points, respectively. Meanwhile, the percentage of students identified as "needing improvement" and having a "health risk" went up: by 3.3 percentage points among fifth graders, 4.4 for seventh graders and 3.8 among ninth graders.

The Department of Education did not immediately comment on those results.

During the proposed physical fitness test program's suspension, the state would study whether the current test should be modified or redrawn anew, Palmer said. Initiated in 1998, the school tests can include a one-mile run, push-ups and other measurements.

Physical education classes would remain a requirement for graduation, however.

The proposal, first reported by Politico, was tucked inside Newsom's education budget bill for next year.

School districts nationwide use such tests, and the exercise can inform growing children about potential health problems, experts say. But the results from tests and BMI measurements should not be used to diagnose health risks, according to the Society of Health and Physical Educators.

"The issue of BMI screening plays a role in the issues of both body shaming and bullying," Palmer also wrote in an email.

Bodybuilder and former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger had several school fitness initiatives during his time in office. He said through a spokesman that physical education classes should be the top priority.

"Whether the state uses fitness tests or not, Governor Schwarzenegger believes that the most important thing is that our students have access to daily physical education classes to promote a healthy and fit lifestyle," said Daniel Ketchell, a spokesman for Schwarzenegger.

Ketchell agreed that BMI screenings are flawed. He said, for instance, that the 6-foot-2-inch and 240-pound Schwarzenegger would have been officially classified obese when he won the top bodybuilding title of Mr. Olympia in 1974.

## **Back on stand, Weinstein accuser declares: 'He is my rapist'**

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

NEW YORK (AP) — A day after breaking down in tears, a key accuser at Harvey Weinstein's trial returned to the witness stand Tuesday and endured a final day of withering cross-examination focused on the complex nature of their relationship, defiantly telling jurors: "I want the jury to know that he is my rapist."

The woman was back in a New York City courtroom for a third day as Weinstein's lawyers finished an exhaustive review of friendly, sometimes flirtatious emails she sent the film producer after she says he raped her twice in 2013.

They also played a recording she made of herself telling a psychic in April 2014 that Weinstein "had tried to cross boundaries in my life but I don't allow him to."

Weinstein's lawyers contend that evidence points to a consensual relationship and shows that the 34-year-old former actress was a manipulator who grin-and-bared her way through sexual encounters with Weinstein because she enjoyed the perks of knowing him.

"I know the history of my relationship with him," she pushed back. "I know it was complicated and difficult. But that doesn't change the fact that he raped me."

Asked by Weinstein lawyer Donna Rotunno how many times they had consensual sex, the woman responded: "I only remember intercourse the times that he raped me."

Cross-examination took up most of the woman's time on the witness stand.

She finished up direct testimony back on Friday and prosecutors decided not to ask her any additional questions once Rotunno was finished Tuesday afternoon.

One reason the defense has focused so much attention on the woman is because her allegations that Weinstein raped her at a Manhattan hotel in March 2013 are the basis for some of the most serious charges at issue in his trial.

The woman has alleged Weinstein raped her again several months later at a Beverly Hills hotel, though she said she is not sure if she will pursue charges there.

The woman's return to the witness stand followed an emotional episode Monday, when she sobbed while reading an email passage about being abused earlier in her life. It was part of an email she sent a boyfriend in May 2014 explaining her relationship with Weinstein. The judge halted proceedings when she was unable to continue.

The Associated Press typically does not publish the names of people alleging sexual assault unless they give their consent. The AP is withholding the name of the woman because it isn't clear if she wishes to be identified publicly.

Resuming questioning on Tuesday, Rotunno asked the woman about several times she saw Weinstein after the alleged rapes, including her acceptance of his invitation to a Oscars party in 2015 and her decision to meet him in 2016 in his room at the same Beverly Hills hotel where she alleges he previously raped her.

After the 2016 hotel encounter, the woman emailed Weinstein saying, "I feel so fabulous and beautiful. Thank you for everything."

She told jurors that Weinstein "was being really nice to me" at that time, but said she couldn't remember if they had sex on that occasion. Weinstein, now 67, was married at the time to fashion designer Georgina Chapman.

At one point, Rotunno asked the woman why she would accept favors from "your rapist." That's when the woman turned to jurors and said: "I want the jury to know that he is my rapist."

While dozens of women have accused Weinstein of sexual assault or harassment, he is on trial in New York for allegations involving just two episodes with two women: the woman testifying Tuesday and a former film and TV production assistant, Mimi Haley, who alleges he forcibly performed oral sex on her in 2006. Weinstein's downfall energized the #MeToo movement.

As big a factor as Tuesday's witness is in the case, the defense's painstaking cross-examination, coupled with her emotional reaction on Monday, could run the risk of alienating jurors and making her appear more sympathetic.

Defense lawyer Brian McMonagle found himself navigating the same murky waters on the way to winning a mistrial because of a hung jury in Bill Cosby's first molestation trial in 2017. Cosby was later convicted.

"Of course a lawyer has to go in there and attack credibility and attack inconsistencies," said McMonagle, who's not involved in the Weinstein case. "It's just how you do it. There's a way to do it without being despicable."

On Tuesday, the jury was shown a series of nude photos of Weinstein taken by the district attorney's office a few weeks after his arrest, presumably to try to corroborate claims by the woman he's charged with raping that she noticed "extreme scarring" on his body. She testified last week that along with the scars, she thought he had characteristics of both male and female genitalia.

Jurors also heard from another supporting witness: an actress who testified that she felt pressured into having an awkward three-way sexual encounter with Weinstein and the woman.

Emanuela Postacchini testified that in February 2013, Weinstein had her meet him and the rape accuser at a Los Angeles-area hotel, where he tried to persuade the women to have sex with him.

Postacchini said during the encounter, Weinstein's accuser went into the bathroom and was "crying in the fetal position on the ground." Postacchini said that while she personally didn't feel forced to do anything, "the situation was forced."

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This story has been updated to delete a reference to Postacchini's age because of uncertainty about its accuracy. This story has been corrected to show the location of the Peninsula Hotel the accuser met with Weinstein in 2016 is in Beverly Hills, California, not New York.

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

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For more Weinstein trial coverage, visit: <https://apnews.com/HarveyWeinstein>

## Shannen Doherty says she is battling stage 4 breast cancer

By The Associated Press undefined

NEW YORK (AP) — Shannen Doherty is battling a recurrence of breast cancer that has progressed to stage four, telling fans "it's a bitter pill to swallow."

"I definitely have days where I say, 'Why me?' And then I go, 'Well, why not me? Who else? Who else besides me deserves this?' None of us do," Doherty told "Good Morning America" on Tuesday. "I don't think I've processed it. It's a bitter pill to swallow in a lot of ways."

The actress from "Charmed" and "Beverly Hills, 90210" first revealed she had breast cancer in 2015 and charted her battle with the disease and its remission on social media.

She said one reason she came forward to say it has returned is because her health conditions could

come out in court. The actress has sued insurance giant State Farm after her California home was damaged in a fire in 2018.

"I'd rather people hear it from me. I don't want it to be twisted. I don't want it to be a court document. I want it to be real and authentic," Doherty said. "I want people to know from me, I just didn't want them to know yet."

In a court filing Tuesday, her lawyers argue Doherty has been forced to pay out of pocket for losses she believes should be covered by her insurance policy. "Plaintiff Shannen Doherty is dying of stage 4 terminal cancer. Instead of living out her remaining years peacefully in her home, Ms. Doherty remains displaced and battling with her insurance company," they argue.

"We empathize with Ms. Doherty's health issues and wish her a full recovery," State Farm said in a statement. "We strongly believe we have upheld our commitment to our customer and have paid what we owe on this claim. We are prepared to defend our position in court."

Doherty, 48, has been working on the show "BH90210" and kept the diagnosis mostly secret. "People with stage four can work, too. Our life doesn't end the minute we get that diagnosis. We still have some living to do," she said.

## Tesla stock is soaring. Madness or visionary investing?

By TOM KRISHER and CATHY BUSSEWITZ AP Business Writers

DETROIT (AP) — Eight months after it seemed headed for the corporate junkyard, Tesla is now worth more than General Motors, Ford and Fiat Chrysler combined, even though the Big Three together sell more cars and trucks in two weeks than Tesla does in a whole year.

In a reversal of fortune analysts find amazing if not nutty, the stock of the electric vehicle and solar panel maker has rocketed to nearly \$900, up over 30% in just the past two days. It is now worth five times what it was in June, when there were whispers of bankruptcy surrounding the company founded by the erratic visionary Elon Musk.

Among the world's automakers, Tesla, with a market value Tuesday just shy of \$160 billion, ranks behind only Toyota, at \$232 billion.

Many investors see it as justified for a company that is leading the world in electric vehicle sales amid an expected global transition from the internal combustion engine to batteries.

Others see the meteoric rise as just plain crazy for a company that's never turned a full-year profit.

"It doesn't seem to be closely attached to reality," said Gartner analyst Mike Ramsey.

Tesla sold only 367,500 vehicles last year, compared with millions at GM, Ford or Fiat Chrysler. GM alone sold 7.7 million, 21 times more than Tesla.

While the spectacular run-up in the stock has been attributed in part to rising profits and other encouraging signs from Tesla, it has been amplified, paradoxically, by the many investors who have been "shorting" the stock — that is, betting it would drop. As the stock goes up, these investors are losing money, so they try to limit their losses by rushing in to buy, driving the price even higher.

Just last spring, Tesla seemed to be in trouble. Its stock had fallen 40% largely on concerns that it was running out of buyers for its high-priced vehicles, which start at nearly \$40,000 and can run well over \$100,000.

Big debt payments were looming, the company was burning cash and losses were growing. Its federal tax credit was being phased out by the end of the year, and competitors were about to launch their own electric vehicles.

But sales emerged stronger than many expected, production problems were vanquished, and while Tesla lost \$862 million in 2019, it turned a profit during the last two quarters of the year, including \$105 million in quarterly earnings posted last week.

Among the positive news coming from the automaker: Tesla said it expects to exceed production of 500,000 vehicles this year at its factories in Fremont, California, and Shanghai. It appears to have worked the kinks out of making the Model 3 small car, the company's lowest-priced vehicle. And it announced it

will start producing the Model Y, a small SUV with broad global appeal, sooner than expected.

"For Tesla worldwide, this will probably be their most important car," said Jessica Caldwell, executive director of insights at the Edmunds.com auto pricing site, which provides content for The Associated Press.

Tasha Keeney, an analyst at ARK Invest, one of the firms most bullish on Tesla, said investors have figured out that Tesla is ahead of competitors in such things as battery technology and software. Also, demand for electric vehicles over the next five years is probably underestimated, she said.

"We think an electric vehicle will be cost-competitive on a sticker price basis with a gas-powered car by 2022, and this is what's going to cause an inflection in demand," Keeney said.

The run-up in price is, like all stock investments, a bet on the future. Electric vehicles account for just 2% of global vehicle sales, and Tesla is up against well-established competitors such as GM, Ford, Audi and Porsche.

Musk has long railed against "short sellers," or investors who borrow stock in a company and then sell it in hopes of buying it back later at a lower price and pocketing the difference. Because of persistent doubts about Musk's ability to realize his big ambitions, Tesla is the most heavily shorted company on the U.S. stock market.

Now the short sellers are feeling the pain.

Still, the stock rise seems irrational to Gartner's Ramsey, who points out that Tesla is an auto company facing perpetually large capital expenditures on factories, vehicle development and raw materials.

"It doesn't make sense in a lot of ways," he said.

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Bussewitz and AP Business Writer Stan Choe contributed from New York.

## **Avalanche of issues takes out Iowa plan for high-tech caucus**

**By RYAN J. FOLEY and CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY Associated Press**

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — What went wrong with the Iowa Democratic Party's high-tech plan to speed up the reporting of caucus night results? Pretty much everything.

A little-known startup company was picked by party leaders to develop a mobile app for reporting unofficial results, with key details such as the name of the firm kept confidential. While security experts tested the program, many of the people who needed to use it at 1,678 precinct locations across Iowa had little to no training. And a "coding issue" within the app muddied the results, prompting party officials to halt reporting and move to a back-up system to verify the counts.

When it came time to launch the app on Monday night, there was widespread confusion and frustration. It's similar to the sort of chaos election security experts had been warning about. But while much of the attention has been on foreign interference like Russia's effort four years ago, the problems in Iowa highlighted how technical errors can be just as serious. It also underscored the risk of relying on voting technologies that election integrity advocates consider unreliable.

"If I were prone to Twitter, I would use the hashtag #IToldYouSo," said University of Iowa computer science professor Douglas W. Jones, an election security expert. "It looks like the worst-case scenario happened."

Jones, a voting security consultant and co-author of "Broken Ballots," had warned before the caucuses that the Iowa Democratic Party's plan to deploy the unproven app during the high-stakes event was risky and had been undermined by excessive secrecy and a lack of public confidence in its ability.

Unlike the November election and state primaries administered by state and local election officials, the Iowa caucus was administered by the Iowa Democratic Party. On Tuesday, Nevada Democrats said they would not be using the same app or vendor for their Feb. 22 caucuses, vowing not to have the same problems.

While the app was available to caucus organizers for downloading on their smartphones a few days earlier, some waited until Monday to do so and encountered difficulties in following the instructions or received error messages. The state party had said previously it was going to delay deploying the app to reduce the

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risk that a hacker might target it, a decision in favor of security but creating little space for error.

"A lot of people had difficulty downloading it and were not happy when they did the test on it," said Ruth Thompson, who chaired a precinct at Lincoln High School in Des Moines. "We came to a consensus not to use it."

After hearing reports of long delays in answering the phone at state headquarters, Thompson and other veteran caucusgoers at her site used calculators to determine the delegate allocation and then texted a photo of the results to Polk County Democratic Party officials, who drove it to state party headquarters.

Although the app was the "preferred method" for reporting results, the party did have a phone line available for caucus organizers to report results. But that quickly became overwhelmed, with some caucus organizers reporting they were on hold for over an hour before they were able to speak with someone.

The reporting problems were exacerbated by a new requirement that organizers from each site gather and submit information to make the process more transparent. For the first time, each precinct collected data on the number of supporters for each candidate at the beginning of the night and then after supporters of non-viable candidates realigned to new groups.

Party officials defended their decision to delay the release of the results, saying they preferred to have accuracy over speed. But before Monday's caucuses, they had touted the app's automated ability to calculate delegates and report results as an improvement over the complicated math and legions of phone calls that the system has long relied upon.

State party officials had said they worked closely with the Democratic National Committee's cybersecurity team to review security protocols. State party officials had downplayed the potential for problems by noting that counting paper backups would eventually provide an accurate tally, which is what the party was working to do Tuesday.

Microsoft had developed a similar app that was successfully used by both parties in 2016, but this cycle Democrats turned to a well-connected but little-known startup.

In a Twitter post Tuesday, Shadow Inc. acknowledged after months of confidentiality that it was the firm hired to build the app and apologized for its failure. The firm includes veterans of previous Democratic presidential campaigns and tech companies and was founded in early 2019 by the Democratic digital advertising group ACRONYM.

"We sincerely regret the delay in the reporting of the results of last night's Iowa caucuses and the uncertainty it has caused to the candidates, their campaigns, and Democratic caucus-goers," the company said.

Shadow said the app collected data in a way that was "sound and accurate," but the process for transmitting the results generated by the app to the state party was marred by a coding error that produced inaccurate numbers. The company said the error was fixed overnight.

Campaign finance records show the Iowa Democratic Party paid \$63,000 to the company in late 2019 while Nevada Democrats paid Shadow \$58,000 for technology services in August with additional payments totaling about \$50,000 in October and December.

At least three Democratic presidential campaigns have used apps developed by Shadow: Kirsten Gillibrand, Pete Buttigieg and Joe Biden. But Biden's campaign said it dropped Shadow's texting app out of cybersecurity concerns. Gillibrand has since left the race.

Precinct chairs reported having problems with the app every step of the way. When they downloaded it on to their personal phones, they received warnings that the app might not be secure since it did not come from a traditional app store. Those warnings scared off some users at that point, organizers said.

Other users reported problems logging in and setting up a two-factor authentication, which involved a QR code and text message system. Others who successfully navigated beyond that step reported the app freezing at key times or confusing error messages that popped up when they tried to report results.

In Johnson County, the state's most Democratic, more than 30 precinct chairs gathered at a Coralville hotel after the caucuses trying to call in their results, said precinct chair Jonathan Green.

Green, who works in information technology, said he was able to test the app before the caucus, but he kept receiving error messages when he tried to report the results. The group finally got through late

Monday after an hour or more on hold and passed around a cell phone one by one to report their results, Green said.

"It was just a wreck," he said. "The system was not prepared to handle the app not working and everybody was overwhelmed."

Cassidy reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writers Brian Slodysko and Stephen Ohlemacher in Washington, D.C., Michelle Price in Las Vegas and Frank Bajak in Boston contributed to this report.

## Senate so far split neatly along party lines on impeachment

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is so far cleaving neatly along party lines in advance of Wednesday's virtually certain votes to acquit President Donald Trump on two impeachment charges, with just two or three undecided members even considering breaking with their party.

A leading GOP moderate, Susan Collins of Maine, announced she will vote to acquit Trump, leaving Utah Sen. Mitt Romney as the only potential GOP vote to convict Trump of abusing his office and stonewalling Congress.

Collins said "it was wrong" for Trump to ask Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate his political rival, Joe Biden, but that Trump's conduct, however flawed, does not warrant "the extreme step of immediate removal from office." Collins voted to acquit former President Bill Clinton at his trial in 1999.

More typical of the GOP side was Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who again slammed the impeachment drive of House Democrats as "the most rushed, least fair and least thorough" in history and confirmed that he will vote to acquit Trump.

The trial is cruising to impeachment tallies that will fall short of even a majority of the GOP-held Senate, much less the two-thirds required to remove Trump from office and install Vice President Mike Pence.

The final days of the trial have focused attention on a handful of senators in both parties who were viewed as potential votes to break with their party. GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska called the president's actions "shameful and wrong" in a powerful speech late Monday, but she also derided the highly partisan process. "I cannot vote to convict," she said, though she also sees blame within the Senate.

"We are part of the problem, as an institution that cannot see beyond the blind political polarization," Murkowski told reporters after her speech.

Other Republicans, such as Sens. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, Marco Rubio of Florida and Rob Portman of Ohio, also say Trump's actions to withhold military aid from Ukraine while pressing Zelenskiy to announce an investigation into Biden and his son Hunter were inappropriate, but fell short of warranting his removal from office, especially in an election year.

"The aid went; the investigations did not occur," Portman said.

Democrat after Democrat took to the Senate floor to announce they would vote to convict Trump, with senior Democrat Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., outraged by the conduct of White House lawyers, who he said performed for an audience of one — meaning Trump — while playing fast and loose with the facts.

"The presentation by White House counsel was characterized by smarminess, smear, elision, outright misstatement, and various dishonest rhetorical tricks that I doubt they would dare to pull before judges," said Whitehouse.

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, perhaps the only Democrat seen as a likely vote to acquit Trump, has floated the idea of censuring Trump instead, though the idea doesn't seem to be gaining much traction. Sen. Doug Jones, a former federal prosecutor and Democrat seeking reelection in strongly pro-Trump Alabama, told reporters he's likely to announce his vote Wednesday morning.

No member of either party has indicated yet that they will break with their party colleagues. Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate.

McConnell said the two charges against Trump — that he abused his power and obstructed Congress' ensuing investigation — are "constitutionally incoherent" and don't "even approach a case for the first

presidential removal in American history.”

The Kentucky Republican opened the Senate with a scathing assessment of the case presented by House Democrats, but he did not address whether Trump’s actions were inappropriate or wrong, as some Senate Republicans have conceded.

McConnell has dodged question about whether Trump’s actions — pressuring Zelenskiy to announce an investigation into the Bidens — were inappropriate. He led an effort last week to deny Democrats any opportunity to call witnesses before the Senate, and he has worked closely with the Trump White House in shepherding the case through the Senate.

Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York weighed in immediately after McConnell’s remarks, accusing the Republican leader and his GOP colleagues of sweeping Trump’s misconduct under the rug.

“The administration, its top people and Senate Republicans are all hiding the truth,” Schumer said. The charges are extremely serious. To interfere in an election, to blackmail a foreign country, to interfere in our elections gets at the very core of what our democracy is about.”

The Senate is scheduled to vote on the two impeachment articles Wednesday afternoon. Trump is delivering his State of the Union address Tuesday night, a platform in which he appears before Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., the powerful House speaker who orchestrated last year’s House impeachment drive.

Also Tuesday on the Senate floor, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., repeated a question that Chief Justice John Roberts, who is presiding over the trial, refused to read last week. Roberts’ staff communicated to McConnell’s staff that he did not want to read the whistleblower’s name, according to a Republican familiar with the situation who wasn’t authorized to speak on the record.

Paul denies trying to out the whistleblower and notes his question didn’t use the word. He questions whether the whistleblower may have conspired with House staff aides in writing the August complaint that triggered impeachment.

U.S. whistleblower laws exist to protect the identity and careers of people who bring forward accusations of wrongdoing by government officials. Lawmakers in both parties have historically backed those protections.

The Associated Press typically does not reveal the identity of whistleblowers.

Separately, Trump’s approval rating, which has generally languished in the mid- to low-40s, hit a new high of 49% in the latest Gallup polling, which was conducted as the Senate trial was drawing to a close. The poll found that 51% of the public views the Republican Party favorably, the first time the GOP’s number has exceeded 50% since 2005.

## **In virus outbreak, fretting over a name that might go viral**

**By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — West Nile virus, Lyme disease, Ebola virus.

And now: 2019-nCoV?

“Just rolls off the tongue, doesn’t it?” said Trevor Hoppe, a researcher at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, who has studied the history of disease names.

The name, which stands for 2019 novel coronavirus, has been assigned to the virus behind the outbreak of flu-like illnesses that started in China late last year.

Scientists are still learning about the new virus, so it’s hard to come up with a good name, Hoppe said. The current one is likely temporary, said Dr. Nancy Messonnier of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Once people have a chance to catch their breath, it might be changed,” Messonnier said.

Many media outlets have been skipping the clunky 2019-nCoV and just calling it the new virus or new coronavirus, which isn’t very specific. Coronavirus is the umbrella term for a large group of viruses, including ones that can cause the common cold.

Since the outbreak is centered in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, others have been using Wuhan virus or Wuhan coronavirus or even Wuhan flu — even though flu is an entirely different virus.

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It's consistent with a centuries-old tradition of naming new ailments after cities, countries or regions of the world where they first popped up. West Nile was first detected in the West Nile district of Uganda; Lyme disease in Old Lyme, Connecticut, and Ebola in a village near Africa's Ebola River.

But that can sometimes be wrong or misleading. The 1918 pandemic was called Spanish flu, though researchers don't think Spain is where it actually started.

"Now we have a much different sensibility and tolerance about how we refer to things," said Dr. Howard Markel, a medical historian at the University of Michigan.

In 2015, the World Health Organization issued guidelines that discouraged the use of geographic locations (like Zika virus), animals (swine flu) or groups of people (Legionnaires' disease).

Hoppe noted that AIDS, when it first emerged in the early 1980s, was called "gay-related immune deficiency." That was dropped as it became clear that heterosexuals were also spreading the virus. AIDS stands for acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

With the guidelines, WHO was trying to bring an end to unnecessary stigma that could ostracize people and damage business. Demand for pork plunged in 2009 with so-called swine flu, first identified in a boy who lived on a pig farm in Mexico — even though it wasn't spread through eating pork.

Markel said he liked when diseases were named after the scientists who first described them. (Think Alzheimer, Parkinson and Tourette.) That's problematic today with many scientists across the world working on a new ailment at the same time.

SARS was used for severe acute respiratory syndrome when another coronavirus caused a 2002-2003 outbreak. So maybe this one could be called CARS, Markel said.

"I can see why they want to name it something generic but it has to be something people use," he said. "Otherwise the easier name will take over, and it's naive to think otherwise."

In the end, the WHO may have little control over what it's called, he added.

"Wuhan virus is very catchy — no pun intended," Markel said. "It's a very contagious name."

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

## California shooting shows security vulnerabilities on buses

By **MICHAEL TARM** and **STEFANIE DAZIO** Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Would-be plotters bent on staging an attack aboard a passenger plane know they've first got to pass through a gauntlet of security measures at an airport, from body scans and spot interrogations to pat-downs and even close scrutiny of their shoes.

But a shooting that killed a person and wounded five this week on a Greyhound bus in California illustrates a stark reality about security on buses and trains: Anyone determined to carry out an attack on ground transportation faces few, if any, security checks.

The comparative scant security prompted at least one survivor of Monday's shooting on the bus heading from Los Angeles to San Francisco to rethink his future mode of travel.

"I think I will just fly from now on," Mark Grabban said.

He was on the bus with his girlfriend when a passenger who'd been muttering and cursing opened fire with a semi-automatic handgun.

Grabban's perception was that Greyhound worried more about stopping passengers from smoking and talking too loudly than ensuring no one got aboard with a gun.

"It's astounding and shameful," the 30-year-old said.

Greyhound has declined to comment.

In the four years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, some U.S. lawmakers complained that way too little federal money was spent on ground transit security compared with what was spent on airports. Then U.S. Rep. David Obey, a Wisconsin Democrat, estimated that \$22 billion had gone into airline security in those years, while less than \$550 million went to security for buses, trains, subways and ferries combined.

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There's no indication spending gaps have closed. That's true even though vastly more people get on a bus, train or subway than on planes each day. More than 30 million Americans use ground transit daily, compared with around 2 million who fly.

Violent incidents on buses are extremely rare. But concerns have arisen that with airports more secure than ever, would-be terrorists in particular could see buses and other ground transit as easier targets.

The Transportation Security Administration was established in 2001 to fix security holes that allowed for the 9/11 attacks, with a mandate to check 100% of baggage through airports.

That level of security would be impossible on the country's sprawling bus and rail lines.

More than 70,000 buses operate on 230,000 miles (370,149 kilometers) of roadways, according to the American Public Transportation Association. Even if money could be found to pay for metal detectors at bus stations, it would be impossible to have them at every stop along a route, security experts say.

The suspect in the California shooting boarded at the East Seventh Street bus station in Los Angeles, according to California Highway Patrol Sgt. Brian Pennings. At the station Tuesday, several security guards were visible, but there were no signs of baggage or any other kind of security checks.

"No metal detector, no wand, nothing," Grabban recalled about the preboarding process Monday. Greyhound has a no-gun policy, but Grabban said "a policy isn't enough to stop someone from boarding the bus with a gun and shooting people, as I've found out."

There's no indication federal officials will ever consider making pat-downs, body scans and metal detectors as ubiquitous at bus and train depots as they are at airports.

"We don't intend to roll out anything like what we have in the airports. We are satisfied at this point," Transportation Security Administration Administrator David Pekoske said in 2017.

TSA's mandate does include security on all the nation's transportation networks. But the vast majority of the TSA's more than 43,000 security officers work at the over 400 U.S. airports. TSA efforts beyond airports often take the form of partnerships, advice and federal grants.

States and municipalities assume more responsibility for their local bus or subway systems, and there's little uniformity nationwide.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority together with TSA officials announced in 2018 that it would become the first mass transit system in the U.S. to install screening equipment that scans passengers for weapons and explosives. The TSA has deployed response teams that have done spot baggage checks on city subway systems, including in Chicago.

"It's largely to create the perception that there is an active security program more than a realistic chance of catching someone," said Joseph Schwieterman, a transportation expert and economics professor at DePaul University in Chicago. "They want anyone thinking of carrying a gun into the system to think twice."

Just because passengers don't see security measures at bus and train stations doesn't mean they aren't there, explained another Chicago-based security expert, James Fagel. He said undercover staff are often looking for signs someone might be carrying a gun, while others trained to spot behavior quirks that could indicate trouble monitor depots via surveillance cameras.

Few countries have attempted the kinds of security measures for ground transit that could plausibly thwart an attack. Israel is one. At least some Israeli buses are fitted with four or five separated, fortified compartments, which can help limit the deadliness of a bomb or gun attack, said Fagel, who teaches crisis management at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Among measures to boost security on U.S. buses and trains that wouldn't be too costly or impractical would include requirements that riders show IDs that match names on tickets before boarding, Schwieterman said. He said enabling bus and train services to check the names of ticket buyers to see if they have violent criminal records also could help manage risks.

As it is now, drivers and passengers are the de facto, frontline security when violence breaks out on buses. That happened during a 2014 attack in which a man screaming "everybody's going to die" pummeled the driver and caused a Greyhound bus to careen off an Arizona highway, injuring more than 20 people. Passengers were credited with subduing the assailant.

Same goes for Monday's attack. Authorities say passengers wrested the gun away from 33-year-old An-

thony Devonte Williams and got him off the bus. He was arrested on the side of the road. Officials praised the efforts as heroic, though they didn't immediately provide details.

Tarm reported from Chicago. Associated Press writer Michael Balsamo in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

## Knicks fire Steve Mills, begin search for new president

By BRIAN MAHONEY AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Knicks made a big move before the trade deadline — by getting rid of the guy who would have been making their deals.

They fired President Steve Mills on Tuesday, shaking up the front office at a most unusual time.

General manager Scott Perry will take over control of the basketball operations, with the team announcing that it would begin an immediate search for a new president just two days before the trade deadline.

Mills has held a number of titles at Madison Square Garden since 1999, where he came after spending 16 years at the NBA. But this was the first time his role included full control of basketball decisions, and now MSG executive chairman James Dolan will look for someone else to do it.

"I will always be grateful to Jim for giving me the chance to represent this franchise and I'm disappointed we were unable to achieve success for New York," Mills said. "I would like to thank the staff and the players for their hard work during my tenure. I will always be a Knicks fan."

Mills' firing is the second major change for the Knicks this season. They fired coach David Fizdale after just 22 games.

The Knicks are 15-36 this season, Mills' third in charge after replacing Phil Jackson. They were 17-65 last season, tying the worst record in franchise history, but believed a big summer could lead to a quick improvement.

However, they couldn't sign any of the top free agents despite having enough money to afford two of them, watching as Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving instead went to Brooklyn. Mills then pivoted to sign veteran players to short-term contracts, later insisting those were the players New York was targeting all along.

But instead the Knicks are headed for a seventh consecutive season with a losing record and no playoff appearance.

Now it will be up to Perry to decide if there are any moves worth making for the Knicks before Thursday. Their big trade from last season appears to be a failure: Kristaps Porzingis has helped spark a turnaround in Dallas after New York traded its former All-Star there on Jan. 31, 2019.

Mills was the Knicks' general manager from 2013-17 before being elevated to president after Jackson's departure. He hired Perry and Fizdale, touting a new culture and a plan to rebuild the franchise through youth instead of seeking quick fixes.

But there haven't been any fixes at all.

Pressure shifted onto Mills after Fizdale was fired following a 4-18 start to his second season. The Knicks have played better under interim coach Mike Miller and won their last two games, but the organization remains one of the league's laughingstocks.

New York was blown out at home by Memphis last Wednesday in its most recent home game, when point guard Elfrid Payton was suspended and forward Marcus Morris fined for their roles in an altercation late in the game. Fans chanted "Sell the team! Sell the team!" with Dolan sitting in his courtside seat.

Dolan decided on a different change.

He already has cycled through former players and coaches such as Isiah Thomas and Jackson, but little can stop the losing that has been a constant during his ownership. There was immediate speculation that the next big name that would draw his interest was Masai Ujiri, who built Toronto's NBA championship team.

Oklahoma City's Sam Presti and Houston's Daryl Morey remain respected executives, and sports and entertainment executive Rich Kleiman is a name to watch if they look outside current front office personnel, a person with knowledge of the details told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity

because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The Knicks said it was anticipated that Mills would be nominated to the board of MSG's standalone sports company following the completion of the proposed spinoff of the entertainment business.

"Steve and I have come to the decision that it would be best for him to leave his role as president of the New York Knicks," Dolan said. "We thank Steve for his many years of service to our organization and look forward to continuing our relationship with him as part of our board."

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

## Hong Kong reports virus death as workers strike at hospitals

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Hong Kong hospitals cut services as thousands of medical workers went on strike for a second day Tuesday to demand the border with mainland China be shut completely. The new virus caused its first death in the semi-autonomous territory, adding to growing fears it is spreading locally.

All but two of Hong Kong's land and sea crossings with the mainland were closed at midnight after thousands of hospital workers went on strike Monday. Hong Kong health authorities reported two additional patients without any known travel to the virus epicenter, bringing the number of locally transmitted cases to four.

The growing caseload "indicates significant risk of community transmission" and could portend a "large-scale" outbreak, said Chuang Shuk-kwan, head of the communicable disease branch at the Center for Health Protection.

More than 7,000 health workers joined the strike Tuesday, according to the Hospital Authority Employees' Alliance, the strike organizer.

Hong Kong was hit hard by the 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, a virus from the same family as the current outbreak. Trust in Chinese authorities has plummeted following months of anti-government protests in the Asian financial hub.

The territory's beleaguered leader, Carrie Lam, criticized the strike and said the government was doing all it could to limit the flow of people across the border.

"Important services, critical operations have been affected," including cancer treatment and care for newborns, Lam told reporters. "So I'm appealing to those who are taking part in this action: Let's put the interests of the patients and the entire public health system above all other things."

China reported 425 deaths and 20,438 confirmed cases, up sharply from the previous day. Outside mainland China, at least 180 cases have been confirmed, including two fatalities, the one in Hong Kong and another in the Philippines.

The patient who died in Hong Kong was a 39-year-old man who had traveled to Wuhan, the mainland city where the outbreak started. The Hospital Authority said Tuesday he had pre-existing health conditions but gave no details.

Most deaths have been among the elderly and those with other health problems, authorities said. More than 80% were over 60 years old, and more than 75% had an underlying disease, Jiao Yahui, a National Health Commission official, told a news conference Tuesday.

Dr. David Heymann, who led the World Health Organization's response to the SARS outbreak, said it's too early to tell when the new virus will peak, but that it appears to still be on the increase.

He said the spike in China's caseload in recent days is partly attributable to the fact that officials have expanded their search to include milder cases, not only people with pneumonia. He declined to predict whether the virus would ultimately cause a pandemic, or worldwide outbreak. WHO defines a pandemic as sustained transmission of a disease in at least two world regions.

Heymann said as the new virus starts to spread beyond China, scientists will gain a better understanding of it. "What we will see is the clearer natural history of the disease," he said, as those exposed to the virus "are being traced and watched very closely," he said.

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Nevertheless, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged countries to share more data on infections outside China, adding that detailed information has been provided in only 38% of cases.

In particular, he said, "some high-income countries are well behind in sharing this vital data with WHO. ... Without better data, it's very hard for us to assess how the outbreak is evolving or what impact it could have and to ensure we're providing the most appropriate recommendations."

In Wuhan, patients were being transferred to a new 1,000-bed hospital that was built in just 10 days, its prefabricated wards equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment and ventilation systems. A 1,500-bed hospital also specially built is due to open soon.

Elsewhere in the city, authorities were converting a gymnasium, exhibition hall and cultural center into hospitals with a total of 3,400 beds to treat patients with mild symptoms. Television video showed beds placed in tight rows in cavernous rooms without any barriers between them.

Authorities hope that will help relieve what is being described as an overwhelmed public health system in Wuhan and surrounding areas.

One man, Fang Bin, said he saw wards so crowded during a visit to the city's No. 5 Hospital on Saturday that some patients were forced to sit on the ground.

"There are too many patients, it's overcrowded," Fang told The Associated Press. He said he was taken from his home and questioned by police after he posted a video of what he saw online.

Thailand confirmed six more cases Tuesday, raising its total to 25, the highest outside China. Two were motorcycle taxi drivers who had driven for Chinese tourists. Earlier a Thai taxi driver was also diagnosed with the virus. The cases are concerning because they suggest the virus can spread more easily between people.

WHO officials reported slower progress than expected in equipping laboratories across Africa to test for the new virus. No confirmed cases have been reported on the continent, but WHO health security adviser Dr. Ambrose Talisuna said the risk is "very, very high."

China has struggled to maintain supplies of face masks, along with protective suits and other items, as it seeks to enforce temperature checks at homes, offices, shops and restaurants, require masks be worn in public and keep more than 50 million people from leaving home in Wuhan and neighboring cities.

The European Union office in Beijing said member states have shipped 12 tons of protective equipment to China, with more on the way.

Japanese health officials, meanwhile, were conducting medical checks on some 3,700 passengers and crew on board a cruise ship docked off the coast of Yokohama after a passenger tested positive after leaving the vessel while it was in Hong Kong. At least 133 people who have symptoms or had close contact with the infected man have been identified and any confirmed to have the virus will be sent to hospitals for isolation treatment, health ministry officials said

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Associated Press writers Alice Fung in Hong Kong, Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo and Maria Cheng in London contributed to this report.

## **Bloomberg doubles ad spending after chaos of Iowa caucuses**

**By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Billionaire Michael Bloomberg is doubling the already massive amount of money he will spend on advertising, an effort to lift his Democratic presidential bid and capitalize on the chaotic outcome of Monday's Iowa caucuses.

"After more than a year of this primary, the field is as unsettled as ever. No one has made the sale or even come close to it," Bloomberg spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said Tuesday. "Meanwhile, Mike is taking the fight to Trump every day, doubling down on the national campaign strategy we've been running from the beginning."

An exact dollar figure was not provided, but Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York City, has already spent over \$300 million on TV, radio and digital advertising, according to the ad tracking firm Advertising

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Analytics. That's boosted him in recent polls even though he is not competing head-to-head with the rest of the Democratic field in early voting states like Iowa and New Hampshire.

No winner has been declared in the Iowa contest after a technical meltdown prevented many election officials from using a new mobile app to report results. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders held a slight edge in polls before the caucuses, though Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, former Vice President Joe Biden and former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg were all positioned to win.

Bloomberg is running an unconventional campaign that hinges on performing well in contests that come later. He has flooded TV, Facebook and Google with advertising that has improved his standing, even though he has not appeared in a single debate.

In addition to the new advertising spending, Bloomberg's campaign announced it will also double its number of staff, taking the campaign's headcount to 2,100.

His campaign says he will have 125 offices by the week's end and staffers in 40 states and territories, including 450 workers in the battlegrounds of Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Arizona, Florida and Michigan.

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

## UN chief warns 'a wind of madness is sweeping the globe'

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Tuesday that "a wind of madness is sweeping the globe," pointing to escalating conflicts from Libya and Yemen to Syria and beyond.

At a wide-ranging news conference, he said, "All situations are different but there is a feeling of growing instability and hair-trigger tensions, which makes everything far more unpredictable and uncontrollable, with a heightened risk of miscalculation."

The U.N. chief also expressed great frustration that legally binding U.N. Security Council resolutions "are being disrespected before the ink is even dry."

Guterres singled out Libya where he called the current offensives by the warring parties "a scandal" — coming soon after world powers and other key countries adopted a road map to peace in Berlin on Jan. 19 that called for respect for a U.N. arms embargo, an end to foreign interference in the fighting by rival governments and steps toward a cease-fire.

Libya has been in turmoil since 2011, when a civil war toppled longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi who was later killed.

A weak U.N.-recognized administration that holds the capital Tripoli and parts of the country's west is backed by Turkey and to a lesser degree Qatar and Italy. On the other side is Gen. Khalifa Hifter, whose forces launched a surprise offensive to capture the capital last April from their base in the country's east and are backed by the United Arab Emirates and Egypt as well as France and Russia.

Guterres said the 55-point Berlin agreement has been repeatedly violated by fighting and continuing arms deliveries. "We are seeing more and more civilians being targeted, ... migrants in a desperate situation and all the commitments that were made apparently were made without a true intention of respecting them," he said.

The secretary-general also expressed "enormous concern" at the escalation of attacks in Idlib, Syria's last rebel-held province with a population of 3 million, and said the U.N. is "particularly worried" that the escalation now includes the Syrian and Turkish armies bombing each other. He again urged a cessation of hostilities "before the escalation comes to a situation that then becomes totally out of control."

As for Yemen, Guterres said he was very encouraged recently to see Iranian-backed Houthi Shiite rebels stop attacking Saudi Arabia and the Saudis, who back the country's internationally recognized government, limiting their military actions. But unfortunately, the last few days have seen "a new escalation," he said, adding, "We are doing everything we can for this escalation to be reversed, and everything we can to create the conditions for a true political dialogue to be re-established."

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In Iraq, which has faced mass anti-government protests since Oct. 1 in which at least 500 demonstrators have been killed, the secretary-general called for the human rights of protesters to be protected. The protesters have decried rampant government corruption, poor services and lack of employment and are demanding the overthrow of the political establishment, electoral reforms and snap elections.

Guterres said militias have sometimes been "the worst perpetrators of violations of human rights" and attacks against protesters. It's critical for the government to ensure that the army and police regain the monopoly on the use of force to ensure the normal functioning of the state, he said.

He also said Iraq's unity must be preserved and "external interferences" must be avoided because divisions are deep and the "risks of the country imploding are high... (which) would have devastating consequences for the region."

On the decades-old conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, the secretary-general said the U.S. peace plan unveiled last week doesn't comply with U.N. General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and international law. The resolutions support a two-state solution based on 1967 borders and call all Israeli settlements in the West Bank illegal.

The secretary-general stressed that global problems "feed on each other."

"As economies falter, poverty remains entrenched. As future prospects look bleak, populist and ethnic nationalist narratives gain appeal," he said. "As instability rises, investment dries up, and development cycles down. When armed conflicts persist, societies reach perilous tipping points. And as governance grows weak, terrorists get stronger, seizing on the vacuum."

Guterres said that this year — as the United Nations marks its 75th anniversary — he will press "to break the vicious circles of suffering and conflict and push for a surge of diplomacy for peace."

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 5, the 36th day of 2020. There are 330 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 5, 2001, four disciples of Osama bin Laden went on trial in New York in the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa. (The four were convicted and sentenced to life in prison without parole.)

On this date:

In 1811, George, the Prince of Wales, was named Prince Regent due to the mental illness of his father, Britain's King George III.

In 1917, Mexico's present constitution was adopted by the Constitutional Convention in Santiago de Queretaro. The U.S. Congress passed, over President Woodrow Wilson's veto, an act severely curtailing Asian immigration.

In 1918, during World War I, the Cunard liner SS Tuscania, which was transporting about 2,000 American troops to Europe, was torpedoed by a German U-boat in the Irish Sea with the loss of more than 200 people.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed increasing the number of U.S. Supreme Court justices; the proposal, which failed in Congress, drew accusations that Roosevelt was attempting to "pack" the nation's highest court.

In 1971, Apollo 14 astronauts Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell stepped onto the surface of the moon in the first of two lunar excursions.

In 1983, former Nazi Gestapo official Klaus Barbie, expelled from Bolivia, was brought to Lyon (lee-OHN'), France, to stand trial. (He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison -- he died in 1991.)

In 1988, the Arizona House impeached Republican Gov. Evan Mecham (MEE'-kuhm), setting the stage for his trial in the state Senate, where he was convicted of obstructing justice and misusing state funds allegedly funneled to his Pontiac dealership.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the Family and Medical Leave Act, granting workers up to 12 weeks unpaid leave for family emergencies.

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In 1994, white separatist Byron De La Beckwith was convicted in Jackson, Mississippi, of murdering civil rights leader Medgar Evers in 1963, and was immediately sentenced to life in prison. (Beckwith died Jan. 21, 2001 at age 80.)

In 1999, Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson was sentenced in Rockville, Md., to a year in jail for assaulting two motorists following a traffic accident (he ended up serving 3 1/2 months).

In 2002, A federal grand jury in Alexandria, Va., indicted John Walker Lindh on ten charges, alleging he was trained by Osama bin Laden's network and then conspired with the Taliban to kill Americans. (Lindh later pleaded guilty to lesser offenses and was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison. He was released in May 2019 after serving more than 17 years.)

In 2009, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg underwent surgery for pancreatic cancer.

Ten years ago: Toyota's president, Akio Toyoda, emerged from seclusion to apologize and address criticism that the automaker had mishandled a crisis over sticking gas pedals.

Five years ago: Jordan stepped up its air attacks on Islamic State facilities in Syria and expanded its airstrikes into Iraq for the first time after a captured Jordanian pilot was burned to death by the militant group. At the National Prayer Breakfast, President Barack Obama called the Islamic State group a "death cult" and condemned those who seek to use religion as a rationale for violence. RadioShack filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and said it would sell up to 2,400 stores.

One year ago: In his State of the Union address, President Donald Trump called on Washington to end what he called "ridiculous partisan investigation" and cast aside "revenge, resistance and retribution;" Trump accepted no blame for the rancorous atmosphere and refused to yield on the hard-line immigration policies that had infuriated Democrats and forced a government shutdown. In the Democratic response, Stacey Abrams, who had lost her bid in Georgia to become America's first black woman governor, accused Trump of abandoning working Americans and bringing partisan and cultural discord. Chanting for yet another title, hundreds of thousands of fans jammed downtown Boston for a parade celebrating the New England Patriots' sixth Super Bowl victory.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Hank Aaron is 86. Actor Stuart Damon is 83. Tony-winning playwright John Guare (gwayr) is 82. Financial writer Jane Bryant Quinn is 81. Actor David Selby is 79. Singer-songwriter Barrett Strong is 79. Football Hall of Famer Roger Staubach is 78. Movie director Michael Mann is 77. Rock singer Al Kooper is 76. Actress Charlotte Rampling is 74. Racing Hall of Famer Darrell Waltrip is 73. Actress Barbara Hershey is 72. Actor Christopher Guest is 72. Actor Tom Wilkinson is 72. Actor-comedian Tim Meadows is 59. Actress Jennifer Jason Leigh is 58. Actress Laura Linney is 56. Rock musician Duff McKagan (Velvet Revolver) is 56. World Golf Hall of Famer Jose Maria Olazabal is 54. Actor-comedian Chris Parnell is 53. Rock singer Chris Barron (Spin Doctors) is 52. Singer Bobby Brown is 51. Actor Michael Sheen is 51. Actor David Chisum is 50. Country singer Sara Evans is 49. Country singer Tyler Farr is 36. Neo-soul musician Mark Shusterman (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 35. Actor-singer Darren Criss is 33. Actor Alex Brightman is 33. Actor Henry Golding is 33. Rock musician Kyle Simmons (Bastille) is 32. Actor Jeremy Sumpter is 31. Drummer Graham Sierota (Echosmith) is 21.

Thought for Today: "Men do not desire to be rich, but to be richer than other men." — John Stuart Mill, English philosopher and economist (1806-1873).

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