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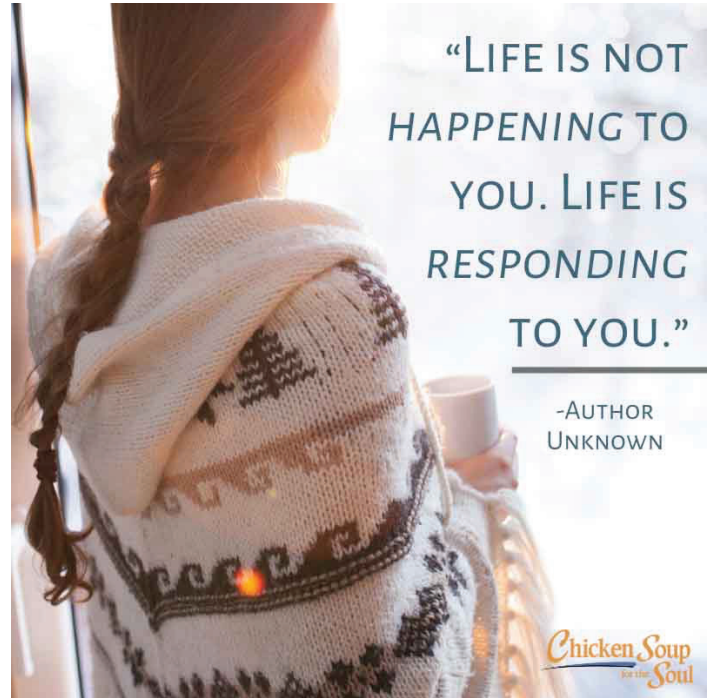
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## Upcoming Events

**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

It's Girls Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Tiospa Zina  
Wambdi**



**VS**

**Groton Area Tigers**

**Thursday, Feb. 6, at Agency Village**

**Broadcasting Girls JV at 6:30 p.m.**

**Sponsored by Olson Development**

**Girls Varsity to Follow**

**Sponsored by the**

**Locke Electric & the SD Army National Guard**



**Pictured are Tom Tietz, Groton Fire Chief, Superintendent Joe Schwan and Rescue Squad Training Officer Patti Woods.** (Courtesy Photo)

## 120 Stop The Bleed Kits delivered to Groton Area

Groton Firemen and Groton Rescue would like to thank all that contributed to the Stop the Bleed Kits. We delivered 120 kits to the Groton Area School with the hopes that they will never have to be used. Preparedness, however, is always important. If the unthinkable would occur they will now have these kits in each room throughout each of the buildings.

Each Stop the Bleed kit has a tourniquet, trauma dressing, compressed gauze, trauma scissors, gloves, surgical tape, marker and instructional booklet.

In 2018 The South Dakota Healthcare Coalition donated (1) 5 pack Stop the Bleed Kits to each school in the state. They are hoping there will be funds in the future to add more kits to each school but it is not promised.

All teachers in Groton Area Schools have been trained in the Stop the Bleed program, along with Fire, rescue and law enforcement.

With the right training, YOU can help save lives!

## The Life of Curtis Sombke



Services for Curtis Dale 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 Friday, February 7th 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.

Curtis Dale was born on May 16, 1935 in Bates Township to Alvin and Adeline (Breitkruetz) Sombke. He attended country school in Verdon for two years before he finished grade school in Ferney. Curtis graduated in 1953 from Groton High School and enlisted in the US Army serving in Japan. Following his honorable discharge in September of 1955, he returned home. Curtis was united in marriage with Janice Krege on November 29, 1957 in Columbia and together they made their home in Groton. Curtis owned and operated Curtis Sombke Construction for many years

before his retirement.

In his later years, he enjoyed fishing and golfing. He also enjoyed watching his grandchildren's sporting, theatrical and musical events.

Together, he and Janice spent winters in Arizona with many good friends. Curtis was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney as a child and later transferred to St. John's Lutheran in Groton. He also belonged to the Groton American Legion Post #39.

Celebrating his life is his wife of 62 years, Janice of Groton, four children, Steven (Denise) Sombke of Kansas City, MO, Darren (Jung-ah) Sombke of Dassel, MN, Chad (Donna) Sombke of Meridian, ID and Jill (Myron) Isakson of Aberdeen. 11 grandchildren, Paul (Britini) Sombke, Joshua (Kaley) Sombke, Benaiah Sombke, Krystal (Conrad) Ratschan, Rose Sombke, Isaac Sombke, Karissa Coffey, Sean Coffey, Casey Sombke, Jackson Isakson, Alexis Isakson. Curtis is also survived by his siblings, Darlis Hamilton of Long Prairie, MN, Larry (Sharon) Sombke of Groton, Gary (Lori) Sombke of Conde and his sister-in-law, Bev Sombke of Groton.

Preceding him in death were his parents, two brothers, Dallas Sombke, Darrel Sombke, one sister-in-law, one brother-in-law and three infant children, Baby Sombke, Craig Allen Sombke, and LeAnn Sombke.

Honorary Casketbearers will be his granddaughters. Casketbearers will be his grandsons.

## Service Notice: Lorraine Zimney

Memorial services for Lorraine Zimney 88, of Ferney will be 2:00 p.m., Sunday, February 9th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney. Rev. Lloyd Redhage will officiate. Inurnment will follow in the spring at St. Paul's Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to services at the church.

Lorraine passed away February 5, 2020 at Avera McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls.

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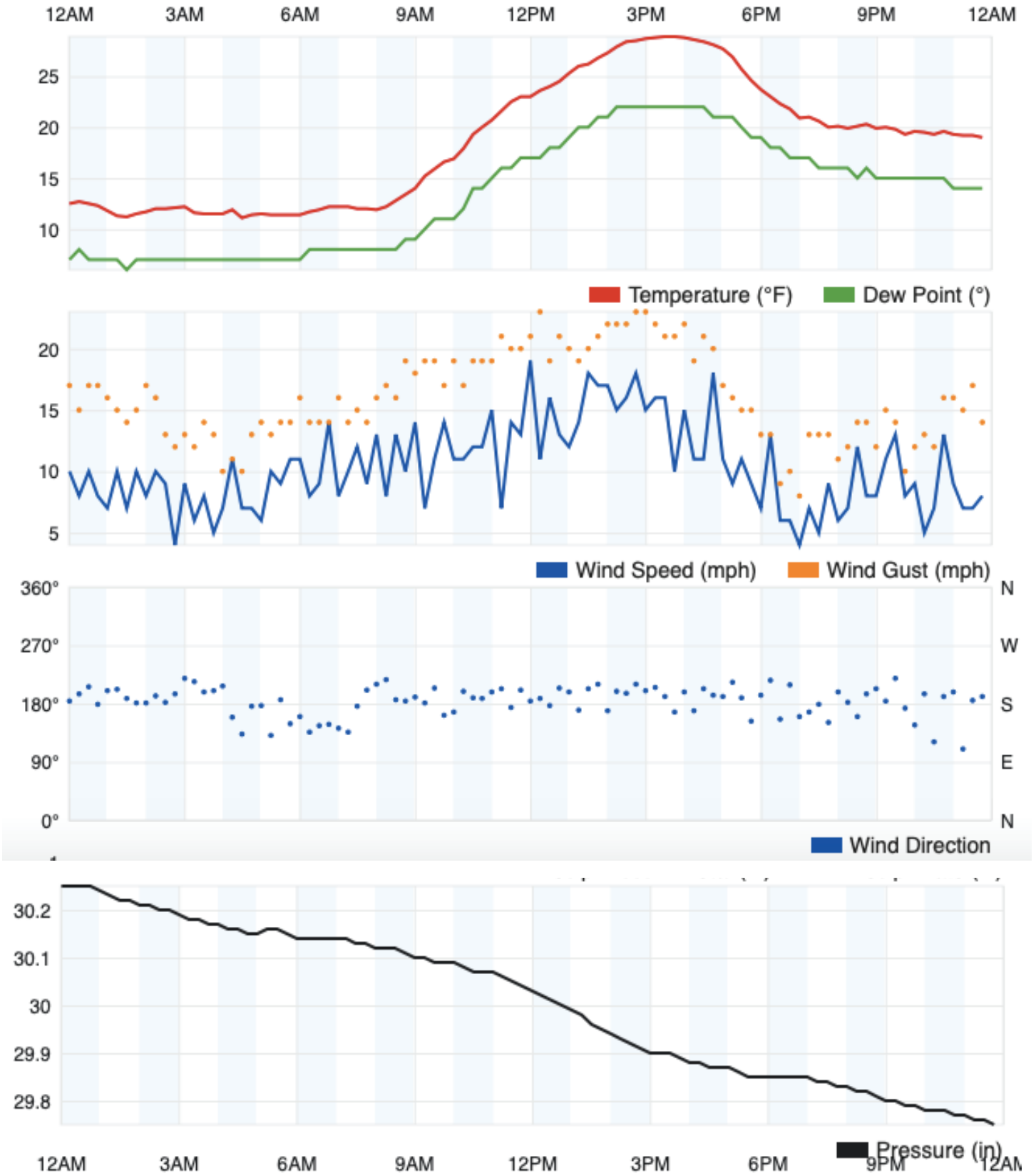


**A fundraiser was held Tuesday during the Langford Area double header. Tshirts, Coins for Cancer and a Bake Sale were held for Camie Heminger. Camie was recently diagnosed with Stage 4 Carcinoid cancer. He son, Douglas, is a junior at GHS. After the game on Tuesday, the team gathered around for a photo op.** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



## Groton Senior Citizens

January 13

Groton Seniors met for a meeting with fourteen members were present. President Ruby Donavon opened with the flag pledge treasurer and secretary reports were read. The new officers were installed. President- Ruby Donavon, Vice President- Sarge Likness, Secretary- Elda Stange, Treasurer- Eunice McColister, There was no old or new Business. Meeting was adjourned. Cards were played . Winners of the games. Pinochle- Sarge Likness, Wist- Tony Goldade, Yahtzee- Eunice McColister, and Pat Larson. Door prizes- Tony Goldade, Marilyn Thorson and Don Darwin. Lunch was served by Belinda Nelson.

January 20

Ten Members were present. One table Pinochle, one table Yahtzee. Door prizes- Mary Walker, David Kliensassor Kelly Miracle. Lunch was served by David Kliensassor and Sarge Likness. Edla Johnson brought her birthday cake. David Kliensassor won Pinochle and Mary Walker and Pat Larson won Yahtzee .

January 27 Groton Senior met for a pot luck dinner. President led the flag pledge. Fifteen members were present. One visitor Carol Daly She became a new member. Bingo was played after dinner Tony Goldade won black out. Cards were played after bingo. Door prizes went to Eunice McColister, Carol Daly and Elda Stange.



## It's never too late to go over the game plan, again

Becky Erickson was going over the game plan on the bus on the way to Northwestern. Erickson is one of the assistant coaches for the girls' basketball team. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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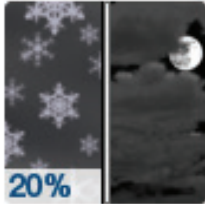
Today



Chance Snow

High: 26 °F

Tonight



Slight Chance  
Snow then  
Mostly Cloudy

Low: 4 °F

Friday



Cold

High: 10 °F

Friday  
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 3 °F

Saturday



Partly Sunny

High: 25 °F

## 6 Day Forecast

A Couple Opportunities for Snow Ahead

Today



Light snow  
possible (T-1")

H: 22 to 36°

L: 0 to 12°

Friday



Chilly

H: 8 to 24°

L: -4 to 18°

Sat-Sun



Accumulating snow  
possible Sat PM – Sun AM

H: 16 to 38°

L: 10 to 22° *Sat warmer  
than Sun*

Monday



A little breezy,  
somewhat mild

H: 26 to 38°

L: 16 to 22°

Tuesday



Somewhat mild

H: 28 to 40°

L: 14 to 22°

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 2/6/2020 5:33 AM Central

Fluctuating temperatures and a couple opportunities for snow is what you can expect through early next week.

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## Today in Weather History

February 6, 1959: A man from Gary in Deuel County was in critical condition with frozen hands, feet, and arms after spending the night in his car in subzero weather. Click [HERE](#) for information on a Winter Storm Survival Kit for Travelers.

February 6, 1987: Record warmth occurred across all of central, north-central, and northeast South Dakota as well as west-central Minnesota with highs in the mid-50s to the lower 60s. Aberdeen, Kennebec, Mobridge, Pierre, Sisseton, Timber Lake, Watertown, and Wheaton all set record highs on this date in 1987. Pierre recorded the warmest temperature for the day with 62 degrees.

1958: The Munich air disaster occurred when British European Airways Flight 609 crashed on its third attempt to take off from a slush-covered runway at Munich-Riem Airport, West Germany. On the plane was the Manchester United football team, nicknamed the "Busby Babes," along with supporters and journalists. Twenty of the 44 on the aircraft died at the scene. The injured, some unconscious, were taken to the Rechts der Isar Hospital in Munich where three more died, resulting in 23 fatalities with 21 survivors.

1978: A massive nor'easter buried the cities of the northeastern U.S. Storm totals included 18 inches in New York City, 16 inches at Philadelphia, and 14 inches in Baltimore. The Boston MA area received 25 to 30 inches in "The Great New England Blizzard," and the mayor outlawed travel in the city for an entire week.

1807 - It was the famous "Cold Friday" in the Midwest and South. The temperature did not rise above zero in Ohio and Kentucky. (David Ludlum)

1978 - A massive nor'easter buried the cities of the northeastern U.S. Storm totals included 18 inches at New York City, 16 inches at Philadelphia, and 14 inches at Baltimore. The Boston MA area received 25 to 30 inches in "The Great New England Blizzard" and the mayor outlawed travel in the city for an entire week. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Brownsville, TX, was deluged with seven inches of rain in just two hours, and flooding in some parts of the city was worse than that caused by Hurricane Beulah in 1967. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Arctic cold invaded the south central and eastern U.S. Sixteen cities reported new record low temperatures for the date. Squalls in the Great Lakes Region produced a foot of snow at Arcade NY in three hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Forty-one cities in the western U.S. reported new record low temperatures for the date. Lows of -30 degrees at Ely NV and -33 degrees at Richfield UT were all-time records. Morning lows of 31 degrees at San Francisco CA and -15 degrees at Reno NV were records for February. Logan Canyon UT was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 54 degrees below zero, and Craig CO hit 51 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - A second cold front brought more heavy snow to the high elevations of Oregon, with 12 inches reported at Sunset Summit. Ten inches of snow blanketed Crater Lake and Mount Bachelor. Heavy snow also blanketed northeastern Nevada and parts of Washington State. In Nevada, up to a foot of snow was reported between Spring Creek and Lamoille. Stevens Pass WA received 14 inches of snow in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



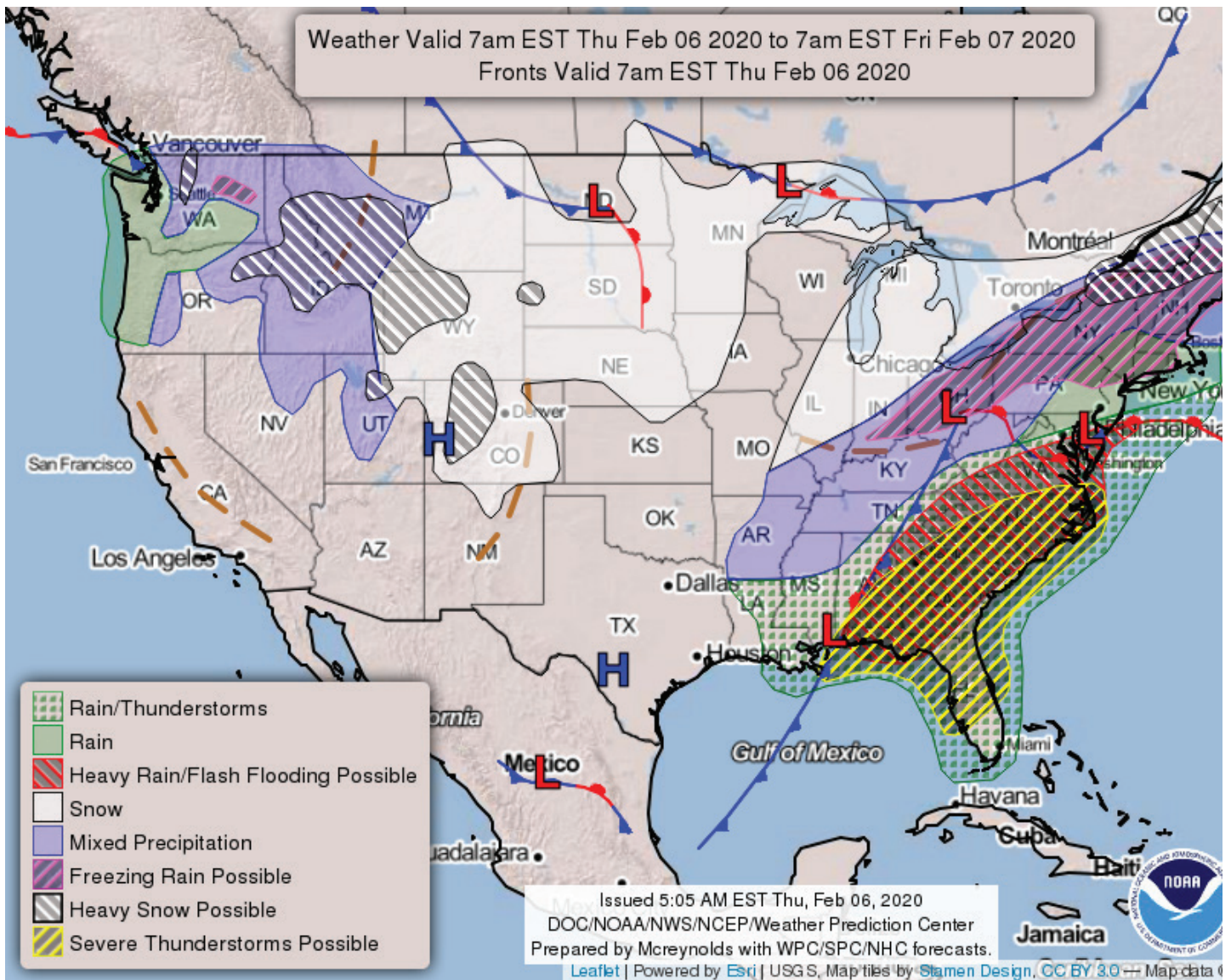
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 29 °F at 3:30 PM**  
**Low Temp: 11 °F at 4:34 AM**  
**Wind: 24 mph at 3:03 PM**  
**Snow**

**Record High: 58° in 1987**  
**Record Low: -33° in 1907**  
**Average High: 25°F**  
**Average Low: 4°F**  
**Average Precip in Feb.: 0.08**  
**Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 0.55**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.35**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:47 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:48 a.m.**



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## DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Shepherd. Warrior. Poet. Murderer. Nation builder. Songwriter. King. Sinner. Musician. Visionary. Failed father. Schemer. Adulterer. Architect. Leader.

Looking at the life of David is like watching a yo-yo go up and down. On one hand, David was a very spiritual man who had a tender heart for God. He spent much time praying and praising God and wrote many psalms that led people to worship God. Yet, when he went into combat he was a fierce warrior, military genius, and victorious over his enemies.

David had a great passion for honoring God and leading His people in many ways that pleased Him. Yet, he neglected his children and failed to control, guide or discipline them. He also committed adultery and murdered a man while trying to hide his sin.

His life reflects many contributions to others as well as contradictions in his walk with God. In the final analysis, however, David was a person just like us. He struggled with being human and was overcome by temptations which led to sin and suffering. Yet, the Lord understood his imperfect nature, and never abandoned him. Why? Because God does not expect perfection but progression. God saw in his heart a desire to worship and serve Him.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for promising us that You will "lift up the fallen" if we repent and seek forgiveness. Help us to abide in You and not be overcome by temptation. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 145:14 The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

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## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

16-25-28-29-30

(sixteen, twenty-five, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty)

Estimated jackpot: \$48,000

Lotto America

01-02-18-26-36, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 3

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

Estimated jackpot: \$7.71 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$187 million

Powerball

23-30-35-41-57, Powerball: 2, Power Play: 3

(twenty-three, thirty, thirty-five, forty-one, fifty-seven; Powerball: two; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

### Nebraska man guilty in murder of woman found in burned car

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A Norfolk, Nebraska, man pleaded guilty Wednesday to the murder of a South Dakota woman whose body was found in a burned car on the Santee Sioux Reservation in Nebraska.

Joseph Lloyd James, 48, entered the guilty plea to first-degree murder in federal court in Omaha, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. His plea agreement mandates a life sentence.

James was arrested in the Nov. 5, 2018, stabbing and strangulation death of Phyllis Hunhoff, 59, of Yankton.

An investigation determined Hunhoff had left her mother's home in Utica, South Dakota, and intended to return to Yankton. However, James and another man entered her car before she could drive away and they drove to Norfolk. The other man left and James drove himself and Hunhoff to the Santee Sioux Indian Reservation in Knox County, Nebraska.

After killing Hunhoff, James went to a gasoline station where surveillance video showed he pumped gas into a bottle. He later drove to a wooded spot on the reservation and set fire to Hunhoff's body and her vehicle, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

District Court Judge Brian C. Buescher set sentencing for May 6 in Omaha.

### Lawmaker wants to prohibit student vaccination requirements

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers will weigh a proposal from one legislative leader to drop vaccination requirements for students.

House Majority Leader Lee Qualm, a Republican from Platte, introduced a bill Wednesday to stop schools and colleges in the state from requiring vaccinations to enter school. The state currently allows vaccination exemptions only for students who have weakened immune systems or who have religious objections.

The bill would also raise the punishment for schools and physicians that "compel" someone to get a vaccination from a Class 2 misdemeanor to a Class 1 misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

"I'm not opposed to vaccines, but I believe it should be up to the parents," Qualm said.

He said he was concerned with the amount of vaccines that children receive and their effects on kids.

Qualm said he wants the bill to apply to adults as well. The bill includes a statement that people may not be discriminated against for refusing to accept an unwanted medical procedure, including immunization.

He said he has heard from adults in the state who were pressured by their employers to get vaccines.

The South Dakota Department of Health says that vaccines help keep kids safe, build immunity against potentially life-threatening diseases and are tested to ensure they are safe.

House Minority Leader, Jamie Smith, a Sioux Falls Democrat, said the bill is "not a good idea for public health in the state of South Dakota."

"The misinformation that anti-vaxxers perpetuate is alarming to people who believe in science," he said.

The Centers for Disease Control last year recorded the highest number of measles cases in the nation since 1992. Most of those cases were among people who were not vaccinated against the disease.

The South Dakota Department of Health reported that over 96% of kindergartners have been vaccinated for measles, mumps, and rubella, representing one of the highest coverage rates in the nation. The state has not had a reported case of measles since 2015.

## **Former Sioux Falls teacher accused of sex contact with minor**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D (AP) — A former Sioux Falls teacher is under arrest on charges he had sexual contact with a minor.

A Sioux Falls police spokesman said Daylan Scott Fargo, 27, was arrested Monday in Hall County, Nebraska. Fargo faces three charges, including sexual contact with a child under 16, sexual exploitation of a minor and solicitation of a minor.

Fargo is a former assistant choir director at Washington High School. The Argus Leader reports Fargo resigned from his position two days before a parent filed a protection order against him last week on behalf of their son.

Fargo is being held in Nebraska on \$100,000 cash bond. The Minnehaha County State's Attorney's office said Wednesday no attorney was listed for Fargo who could speak for him.

A spokeswoman for the Sioux Falls School District confirms Fargo is no longer a district employee.

## **Commissioners postpone vote on Wyoming land use regulations**

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — County officials in Wyoming have postponed making a final decision on a land use regulation change that would open the door for a South Dakota company to build a wild horse facility.

The Laramie County Board of Commissioners decided to wait before voting on a change that would affect any future projects deemed concentrated animal feeding operations, including Equine Elite's proposed facility in Burns, the Wyoming Tribune Eagle reported.

Any current projects must have the approval of neighbors within a 3-mile (5-kilometer) radius but the proposed changes would only require neighbors within a mile to approve, commissioners said.

Commissioners are waiting for more information on an Odor Footprint Tool developed at the University of Nebraska, county officials said. University staff are scheduled in March to report how the tool might be implemented in the county.

The tool would provide science-based information on the risk-based impact of odors generated by livestock facilities and help them determine a good distance for required neighbor approval, commissioners said.

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

## Suit: Failed nursing homes' operators stole from employees

By DAVID PORTER Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — The former operators of a failed multi-state nursing home chain stole more than \$2 million from employees' paychecks that was supposed to pay for their health insurance, according to a lawsuit.

The suit filed last week in U.S. District Court names Joseph Schwartz and wife Rosie Schwartz and their company, Skyline Health Care, which operated more than 100 nursing homes under numerous subsidiary companies. Dozens of those facilities have been taken over by states in the last two years after the company was unable to pay vendors.

Five plaintiffs who worked at Skyline-operated facilities in South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska and Arkansas filed the suit, which seeks class-action status for what it estimates were more than 1,000 employees who were affected.

Employees allegedly only found out they didn't have health insurance when they were billed for medical procedures. One woman allegedly was left with a \$50,000 bill.

"Under the mistaken belief that they had health and dental insurance, Class members underwent medical and dental procedures, which would have otherwise been paid for with insurance, only to be billed for the same after being advised that no insurance had in fact been purchased," the suit claims.

The lawsuit accuses the Schwartzes of racketeering, racketeering conspiracy, negligence and other violations as well as of violating fraud laws in the four states. It seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages, and estimates the amount of health insurance premiums stolen at more than \$2 million.

Court documents didn't list an attorney for Schwartz. At several numbers listed for Schwartz and Skyline — including Skyline's second-floor office above a pizza parlor in the northern New Jersey town of Wood-Ridge — no one answered the phone Wednesday or the numbers were disconnected.

The company or its subsidiaries also operated nursing homes in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, Massachusetts, Kentucky and Tennessee, according to an Associated Press review.

The suit claims the Schwartzes acquired more than 100 nursing homes from 2015 to 2017 in order to generate large amounts of money through Medicare and Medicaid, insurance companies and nursing home residents and their families, and then redirected much of the money to themselves.

The Schwartzes "designed a scheme to acquire as many facilities as possible, pocket as much revenue as possible, as quickly as possible and then wash their hands of the whole thing," the lawsuit alleges.

Theresa Dante, a plaintiff in the lawsuit who worked for a Schwartz-operated facility in South Dakota, told The Associated Press that she and a co-worker sometimes would hide cash in a freezer to ensure they could pay vendors who had stopped accepting the struggling facility's checks for necessities like milk and orange juice.

Over the last several years, Skyline and other Schwartz-controlled companies have been sued in several states, according to a review by The Associated Press. In 2018, a court in Illinois ruled they owed more than \$23 million to a bank that had loaned them money.

One of the other lawsuits, filed in Florida, claimed that between 2009 and 2011, Schwartz-controlled companies failed to pay nearly \$1 million in medical claims for employees of health care facilities — similar to what the current lawsuit alleges happened several years later.

"There were so many affected by this situation, I do hope this possibly can help them," Dante said Wednesday. "Also I hope the states will take notice and work to prevent these things from happening again."

## Small South Dakota towns seek state funds for road repairs

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Small towns in South Dakota say they are strapped for cash after historically bad flooding last year and are asking the Legislature to let them use money from the state's gas taxes for road repairs.

A bill from Sen. Brock Greenfield, a Clark Republican, would use money from the state's motor fuel tax

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and the Department of Transportation to create a \$2.4 million fund that townships could tap for road repairs. But cities, counties, the Department of Transportation, and other programs argue that it would take money away from repairs they need to make.

The Senate Local Government Committee passed the bill on a 4-3 vote Wednesday. The bill would designate the funds for repairing culverts and small structures like bridges. Lawmakers said they want the full Senate to consider the proposal, hoping it would spark further discussion on how to help towns fund road repairs.

Sen. Jordan Youngberg, a Republican from Chester, voted against the bill, saying it was "sweeping," but he acknowledged that the state needs to do something to prepare for spring weather that could further damage roads.

"With spring coming, I think there's going to be a discussion going on in our state with how we're going to take care of our roads," said Youngberg.

Many areas flooded as the state recorded a record-level amount of precipitation last year. South Dakota received four presidential disaster declarations. The Oglala Sioux Tribe, located on the Pine Ridge Reservation, also received one.

The Association of Towns and Townships said communities that are part of the group have struggled to maintain and repair roads for many years and that they should have been getting a bigger piece of the funds from the beginning.

Dustin Leiseth, the association's president, called the reallocation a "necessity in rural South Dakota." Even with disaster declaration funding, towns still have to pay for 15% of repairs. This has stretched many town budgets that don't have large reserves.

Leiseth noted that 22% of vehicle miles driven in the state are on roads maintained by the towns. He also said towns have seen an increase in use by hunters and fishers. He said that about 20% of town roads are in need of maintenance or repairs.

Some locals residents have even repaired roads themselves. Calvin Mosch, a farmer from Clear Lake, said he fixed a mile of road near his property so he could transport his crops and cattle.

Opponents of the bill said it would take money from repairs and programs that are just as cash-strapped.

Angela Ehlers, the director of the Association of Conservation Districts, said the funding from the fuel tax was settled in 2011. Conservation districts help maintain soil quality and other natural resources across the state and receive funding from fuel tax. Ehlers said there is at least one conservation district teetering on the edge of bankruptcy.

Transportation Secretary Darin Bergquist said the proposal would move funds "from the highest volume roads to the lowest volume roads."

The bill will next be considered by the Senate.

## **Brightmark to Build South Dakota's First-Ever Dairy Renewable Natural Gas Project**

SAN FRANCISCO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb 5, 2020--

Brightmark, a San Francisco-based waste and energy development company, announced today that it has signed a manure supply agreement with two South Dakota dairy companies, Boadwine Farms, Inc. and Moody County Dairy Limited Partnership, to capture methane produced by nearly 12,000 dairy cows and heifers and convert it into renewable natural gas. The project is anticipated to produce 217,000 MMBtu of renewable natural gas each year, which is equivalent to the amount of gas needed to drive 2,492 vehicles for a full year. Brightmark is developing the project, and the company will also own and operate it upon completion.

The Athena renewable natural gas (RNG) project will include the construction of new anaerobic digesters on three Minnehaha County farms: Boadwine Farms, Pioneer Dairy, and Moody Dairy. The 11,710 dairy cows and heifers that live on these farms produce a total of 55.6 million gallons of manure each year. After the project is complete, the methane generated by this manure will be captured, cleaned, and converted

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into RNG, which can be used for transportation, cooking, or electricity. The gas will be injected into the local interstate pipeline system for use statewide.

"Brightmark is pleased to launch our first project in South Dakota. Our team specializes in deploying energy technologies that turn waste into productive, sustainable energy solutions, and we're grateful for the opportunity to bring anaerobic digestion to the state," said CEO Bob Powell.

Dairy-derived RNG packs major benefits for the climate. It is the lowest carbon intensity transportation fuel available because it greatly reduces the emission of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, from lagoon-stored manure and wastewater. The Athena project is anticipated to prevent 64,567 tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year, which is equivalent to planting nearly 76,000 acres of forest each year.

"As dairy farmers, we can be part of the solution in helping the environment. The digester projects are a win-win because we have the ability to further process the manure, while reducing greenhouse gasses," said Lynn Boadwine, Owner of Boadwine Dairy, Inc. "Agriculture continually evolves. Our improvements in sustainability in the last generation are just short of incredible. Unfortunately, we don't often tell our story. We are looking forward to partnering with Brightmark to bring these next generation projects to South Dakota."

Tom Peterson, Executive Director of the South Dakota Dairy Producers, said, "South Dakota dairy farmers have a history of applying innovative ideas on their farms. Digesters offer farmers an additional method of utilizing resources in a sustainable manner. In addition, these projects benefit communities with economic contributions in our rural areas."

This is the latest in a series of biogas projects launched by Brightmark in the past two years. The company also has active projects in Washington, Wisconsin, South Carolina, and New York. When the Athena project becomes operational, Brightmark's biogas projects will generate enough renewable natural gas to provide all energy needed for 5,432 homes each year. The company is developing similar biogas projects nationwide.

South Dakota farmers with an interest in collaborating with Brightmark on a dairy RNG project should contact Kavitha Ramakrishnan at [kavitha.ramakrishnan@brightmarkenergy.com](mailto:kavitha.ramakrishnan@brightmarkenergy.com).

## Small fire at USD Medical Center reshuffles patients

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Some labor and delivery patients at South Dakota's largest hospital were evacuated to another unit after a small fire broke out.

The fire on a maintenance cart sent smoke into the labor and delivery unit at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls late Tuesday night, KELO-TV reported.

A Sanford Health spokesperson says the fire occurred in the bio-med area on a lower level and was put out by the sprinkler system in the building.

The labor and delivery patients were sent to the critical care unit. There were no injuries.

## China opens new hospitals for virus patients, deaths top 560

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China on Thursday finished building a second new hospital to isolate and treat patients of a virus that has killed more than 560 people and continues to spread, disrupting travel and people's lives and fueling economic fears.

A first group of patients was expected to start testing a new antiviral drug, as China also moved people with milder symptoms into makeshift hospitals at sports centers, exhibition halls and other public spaces.

The health care system in the central city of Wuhan, where the outbreak was first detected in December, has been overwhelmed with the thousands of ill patients. A new, 1,500-bed hospital specially built for virus patients opened days after a 1,000-bed hospital with prefabricated wards and isolation rooms began taking patients.

Other treatment centers had tight rows of simple cots lining cavernous rooms. And Wuhan had another



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132 quarantine sites with more than 12,500 beds, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Chinese health authorities reported 563 deaths and another sharp jump in the number of confirmed cases to 28,018. Outside mainland China, at least 260 cases have been confirmed, including two deaths in Hong Kong and the Philippines.

Hospital workers in Hong Kong demanding a shutdown of the border with the mainland were on strike for a fourth day. Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam announced a 14-day quarantine of all travelers entering Hong Kong from the mainland starting Saturday, but the government has refused to seal the border entirely.

A Hong Kong medical union warned that its 20,000 members could resign en masse if the city's Hospital Authority refuses to speak with them over their demands. It estimated 7,000 were on strike and said those who were working were worried about their safety.

The outbreak of the new type of coronavirus has also ensnared two cruise ships, with the passengers and crew now quarantined on the docked vessels in Hong Kong and Japan.

Ten passengers confirmed to have the virus were escorted off the Diamond Princess at a port near Tokyo, after 10 others were taken off the previous day. The group taken to hospitals Thursday are mostly passengers in their 60s and 70s, four of them Japanese, two Americans, two Canadians, one New Zealander and one Taiwanese. Tests are still pending on others on board who had symptoms or had contact with infected people.

More than 3,600 passengers and crew on the Hong Kong ship, the World Dream, were being screened after eight passengers from a voyage that began Jan. 19 were diagnosed with the virus. Hong Kong health authorities said more than 5,000 passengers traveled on that cruise and two others before the ship was quarantined Monday.

Xinhua said clinical trials for the antiviral drug Remdesivir have been approved and the first group of patients are expected to start taking the drug on Thursday. Word of the trials had boosted the stock price of the drug's maker, American biotechnology company Gilead Sciences Inc.

Antivirals and other drugs can reduce the severity of the virus, but "so far, no antivirals have been proven effective," said Thanarak Plipat, a doctor and deputy director-general of Thailand's Disease Control Department of the Health Ministry. He said there were a lot of unknowns, "but we have a lot of hope, as well."

China's National Health Commission said the number of infected patients who were "discharged and cured" stood at 1,153 as of Thursday. Details weren't given, but milder cases have been seen in younger, healthier people. The new virus is in the coronavirus family that includes MERS and SARS, and it causes fever, cough and shortness of breath, and in severe cases, pneumonia.

China has strongly defended its epidemic control measures, including locking down several cities in central Hubei province, where the outbreak has been concentrated. More than 50 million people are under virtual quarantine in Hubei, but outlying cities, towns and villages have enacted varying restrictions and other countries have severely restricted travel to and from China.

Associated Press writers Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo and Elaine Kurtenbach in Bangkok contributed to this report.

## Universities cancel study-abroad programs amid virus fears

By MICHAEL MELIA and KANTELE FRANKO Associated Press

As concerns about China's virus outbreak spread, universities are scrambling to assess the risks to their programs, and some are canceling study-abroad opportunities and prohibiting travel affecting hundreds of thousands of students.

From Europe to Australia and the United States, universities in countries that host Chinese students have reconsidered academic-related travel to and from China. In the U.S., the cancellations add to the tension between two governments whose relations were already sour.

The scare threatens to cause lasting damage to growing academic exchange programs that reached new heights over the last decade and a half, experts say.

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The travel restrictions also complicate planning for conferences and campus events in the U.S. that scholars from China might attend.

"That door has been, if not slammed shut, certainly closed for the immediate future," said Michael Schoenfeld, Duke University's vice president for public affairs and government relations.

After U.S. officials recommended against nonessential trips to China, many universities limited travel there, including Duke, which also operates a campus in China in a partnership with Wuhan University, which is in the city at the center of the outbreak.

Duke Kunshan University closed its campus in Kunshan to nonessential personnel until Feb. 24. The school also helped students who had recently applied for Chinese residency get their passports from local officials so they could travel home and started developing online learning plans for them.

Two of the 12 confirmed U.S. cases are linked to college campuses. One diagnosis was confirmed at Arizona State University and another at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, which said the infected student had recently traveled to Wuhan.

The virus represents an unprecedented disruption for the academic ties between the U.S. and China, said Brad Farnsworth, vice president of global engagement at the American Council on Education.

He recalled the SARS crisis in 2002 and 2003, when the severe acute respiratory syndrome that originated in China killed nearly 800 people.

"The whole higher education relationship was not nearly as complex as it is now," Farnsworth said. "We have many, many more students going in both directions."

Many academic collaborations could be rescheduled if the crisis is resolved quickly, but the longer it lasts, the deeper the damage will be, he added.

China sends far more students to the United States than any other country — more than 369,000 in the last academic year, according to the Institute of International Education. The U.S. typically sends more than 11,000 students to China annually. Lately, the relationship has been strained by visa difficulties, trade conflicts and U.S. concerns about security risks posed by visiting Chinese students.

"This doesn't help the current situation, which is very tense right now," Farnsworth said. "This is a low point in U.S.-China higher education relations, there's no question."

China's consul general in New York, Huang Ping, said Tuesday at a news conference that students who returned to the U.S. from Hubei province, which includes Wuhan, should report to health officials so they can be monitored. He urged the international community to work together to combat the illness, saying the "virus is the enemy, not the Chinese."

In Germany, the Berlin Free University and Berlin Institute of Technology each said they would not allow visits from China or approve trips to China until further notice. Paderborn University said it was reviewing any China travel plans made by students or doctoral candidates.

A spokesman for Silesian University in the Czech Republic said the school postponed exchange programs for 38 Chinese students. Several other schools issued similar cancellations, but Masaryk University in the Czech city of Brno said it was still ready to accept 24 students from China who are expected in two weeks.

Tens of thousands of Chinese students enrolled in Australian universities are stranded in their home country. Monash University has extended its summer break to give students and staff more time to return. Classes had been scheduled to begin on March 2.

Most Chinese students studying in the U.S. were already in place for classes when the virus emerged, but worries about the illness have led many schools to cancel plans to send Americans to China for an upcoming semester.

At the University of Arkansas, where China has been a popular study-abroad destination, especially for business students, about 60 students who had been planning to travel there beginning in May saw their programs canceled.

The university made the decision a week ago, before students had to make financial commitments, and it has been working to arrange opportunities in other parts of the world for the affected students, said Sarah Malloy, the university's director of study abroad and international exchange.

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One Arkansas student, Lancaster Richmond, had been planning to visit Beijing and Shanghai to fulfill a requirement of her MBA program. Now the 24-year-old is planning to visit Chile this summer instead.

"I was obviously disappointed, but I also understand the university is doing whatever they can in our best interest," she said. "It made my parents a little more comfortable as well. They'd obviously been following the news."

Worries about the virus have altered some rhythms of campus life, including cancellations of Chinese New Year events at the University of Akron and the University of Arizona. But many universities say they are emphasizing precautions such as frequent hand-washing.

Andrew Thomas, chief clinical officer at Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center, said the university is monitoring the situation but trying not to be "over the top to the point that we're causing more concern and fear than is warranted in the community."

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, which enrolls over 5,500 students from China, said some of its students from Wuhan who traveled home during winter break opted to self-quarantine or wear masks while going to class to protect others. Several institutions urged anybody returning from China to isolate themselves for two weeks as a precaution.

At Northeastern University, graduate student Lele Luan said that while some fellow Chinese students have taken to wearing masks around campus in Boston, he does not feel the need.

"They told me it's very safe here," he said. "So I don't do anything special to protect myself."

At the University of California, Berkeley, the Tang Center for health services tried last week to share tips on managing anxiety about the virus. But it faced backlash for a list suggesting that "normal reactions" might include xenophobia and "fears about interacting with those who might be from Asia."

Asian Americans quickly expressed outrage on social media. The center apologized for "any misunderstanding it may have caused" and changed the wording.

Melia reported from Hartford, Connecticut, and Franko from Columbus, Ohio. Associated Press writers Karel Janicek in Prague, David Rising in Berlin, Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia, and Rodrique Ngowi in Boston also contributed to this report.

## Passengers say crumpled Istanbul flight landed very fast

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Passengers who lived through the crash landing in Istanbul that killed three people and left a Turkish plane crumpled into pieces say the plane's descent felt unusually fast.

Engin Demir, who was injured in the crash, told NTV television that he really noticed the speed as the Boeing 737 operated by low-cost Pegasus Airline landed at Sabiha Gokcen Airport on Wednesday evening.

Coming in amid strong winds and heavy rain, the plane overshot the runway. It skidded about 50 to 60 meters (165 to 200 feet) before it dropped into a 30-meter (98-foot) high ditch, according to the city's governor, Ali Yerlikaya. The 11-year-old plane broke into three pieces, forcing passengers to squeeze out through cracks and climb out onto its damaged wings. In addition to the deaths, 180 people were injured, authorities said.

"With the speed, I think it was not able to stop. It all happened in 2-3 seconds," Demir said from his hospital bed in Istanbul.

Demir said he was trapped for a while by plane debris falling from the luggage compartment.

"There were screams and shouts. I tried to calm people around me. Help soon arrived," he said.

Another survivor, Alper Kulu, told the DHA news agency the flight was "abnormal from the start to the finish."

"It was a very turbulent flight. The plane touched down with difficulty. It was very speedy compared to other flights," he said, adding that "a 'Welcome to Istanbul' announcement was made after the wheels touched down."

He said the plane suddenly swayed left and right, then dipped to the left to fall into the steep ditch. He

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said the impact flipped the seats in front of him completely around. He said he pressed to get out since he feared the plane could explode.

"There was panic and shouting. Everyone was calling for help. I got out of the plane on my own, with a broken arm, I (climbed) 30-40 meters. I heard announcements that the plane could explode," he said.

The plane, carrying 177 passengers and six crew members from the western Turkish city of Izmir, included people from 12 countries. Yerlikaya, speaking early Thursday, said all the injured were stable but four had significant injuries. He did not elaborate. The three dead were Turkish citizens.

Pegasus Airlines CEO Mehmet T. Nane told a press conference in Istanbul that the black boxes were retrieved and were being deciphered.

"It's not easy to speak here when there are deaths, damages, injuries," Nane said, choking up. He said Pegasus will work to heal the wounds caused by the deadly landing.

"There are tons of questions, how did it happen, why did it happen?" he said, adding that information would be shared by authorities and the company with the public when available.

Nane said the 180 injured were sent to 23 hospitals and 56 of them had already been treated and released.

Pegasus Airlines changed its logo on Twitter to a blackened version in a sign of mourning and said its "priority is to support the relatives and friends who have lost loved ones."

Nane said the company's pilots were "encouraged" and trained to avoid risks, do stable approaches, bypass landings if necessary and divert to alternative airports. He said the airline safety's scores were above European Union standards.

The company is majority-owned by Turkish billionaire Sevket Sabanci and his family, with 34.5% of shares floating in stock exchange Borsa Istanbul. Its fleet of 83 planes flies to more than 100 destinations.

Work continued at the crash site Thursday and crews were taking apart the interior as police guarded the wreckage. Flights resumed, although some delays and cancellations continued.

Despite Nane's reassurances, Pegasus has had several recent instances of overshooting runways.

Another Pegasus Airlines plane skidded off the runway at the same Istanbul airport on Jan. 7, causing the temporary closure of the airport. There were no injuries.

In January 2018, another Boeing 737 in the Pegasus fleet slid off a runway at Trabzon Airport in north-eastern Turkey. The plane came to rest in the dirt above the Black Sea with its nose pointed toward the water. No one was injured.

## 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. NOT GUILTY: SENATE ACQUITS TRUMP Mitt Romney was the only Republican senator to vote against acquittal as just the third impeachment trial in American history ends with a divided Congress, and electorate.

2. GLOBAL TOURISM TAKES MAJOR HIT The viral outbreak in China throws the travel industry into chaos, threatening billions in losses and keeping millions of would-be travelers at home.

3. 'A FLOATING PRISON' That's what one man celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary on luxury cruise now feels after initially enjoying the sights of East Asia — it's ending with him quarantined on the ship for two extra weeks.

4. IOWA RACE TIGHTENS Pete Buttigieg and Bernie Sanders are nearly tied in the Democratic caucuses, with 97% of the results counted in a contest marred by technical issues and reporting delays.

5. 'UNCERTAINTY IS NOW PERMANENT' From France to South Korea, Britain to Israel, traditional American allies are heavily invested in what happens later this year in the U.S. election.

6. 'TOOK A GUT PUNCH' After a relatively poor showing in Iowa, Joe Biden says he isn't going anywhere as he tries to position himself in New Hampshire as the new "Comeback Kid."

7. BACK ON EARTH Astronaut Christina Koch, who has spent nearly 11 months in orbit on the longest

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spaceflight by a woman, lands safely in Kazakhstan.

8. **FISSURES SEEN IN US-IRAQI MILITARY ALLIANCE** The Iraqi government is backing away from cooperation on the ground, telling its military not to seek the Americans' help in military operations against the Islamic State group.

9. **'TO THE WORLD, HE WAS A LEGEND'** Kirk Douglas, the muscular actor with the dimpled chin who starred in "Spartacus," "Lust for Life" and dozens of other films and helped fatally weaken the Hollywood blacklist, is dead at 103.

10. **WHO IS SEEKING REINSTATEMENT TO BASEBALL** Career hits leader Pete Rose seeks an end to his lifetime ban, saying the penalty is unfair compared with discipline for steroids use and electronic sign stealing.

## Impeachment loses its constitutional gravity in Trump case

By **CALVIN WOODWARD** and **MICHAEL TACKETT** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Years from now, will you remember where you were and what you were doing when President Donald Trump was impeached? Have you forgotten already?

The country has been on a constitutional bullet train that took off with a whistleblower's highly detailed account of wrongdoing, roared ahead through a cascade of tweets and lurched to a halt after more than four months of inquiry, angst and debate with Trump's acquittal on Wednesday. So can you point to Ukraine on a map?

American children learn almost by rote that impeachment is a gravely serious proposition, the constitutional means for removing a president from office who commits "high crimes and misdemeanors."

The words of founders like Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and George Mason are invoked from more than two centuries ago to remind everyone why they thought the federal government needed to have a means to undo an election.

Long before anyone split an atom, the founders created the political equivalent of a nuclear weapon, with the fate of the nation in the balance.

This time, it just didn't feel like it.

We were witness to history in a way few generations have been. But it was a chapter of history laced with artifice.

The roughly half of the country that wanted Trump to be impeached and begone knew his acquittal was all but preordained in the Republican-controlled Senate. Just as Trump loyalists thought the matter was a hoax inflicted by the Democratic-controlled House.

The Senate impeachment trial delivered eloquence without persuasiveness, a mystery without suspense. It delivered argument without the anguish that accompanied the other impeachment episodes in anyone's lifetime today.

In the past they wept.

In 1974, Republican Rep. M. Caldwell Butler of Virginia wept after he cast a committee vote to impeach fellow Republican Richard Nixon. "For years we Republicans have campaigned against corruption and misconduct," he said. "But Watergate is our shame."

A quarter-century later, California Republican Rep. Tom Campbell verged on tears from the weight of the moment when he announced in favor of Clinton's impeachment in a near whisper.

As partisan and poisonous as that era was, too, Democrats gave their president a tongue-lashing to remember before saving his presidency. "He's not the best Democrat any of us have seen," snapped Rep. Louise Slaughter of New York.

Trump commanded fealty from his party like others also stained by impeachment or its threat never did. Only one in Congress broke with the president, and for him the anguish was plain on his face and in his voice. "The president is guilty of an appalling abuse of public trust," Utah Sen. Mitt Romney said on the Senate floor as he explained why he would vote for conviction.

The founders were never big on specifics. In essence, they told the House to handle impeachment and

the Senate to manage conviction or acquittal as each chamber sees fit. Their atomic bomb from the ages came without a detailed instruction manual or FAQ.

As the Senate sat as both judge and jury to assess the impeachment charges against Trump -- for only the third time in history and the first time for a president seeking reelection — the limits of the proceedings for addressing misconduct were clear and the artifice became ever more apparent.

It was a trial in name only.

Senators on both sides openly prejudged the case. Questions were not spontaneous. The lawyers knew them in advance and were prepared with answers that even included slideshows.

The senators, muzzled in the chamber for much of the time, rushed to TV cameras to deliver their opinions on what they had just heard, unlike a jury that would be sequestered and forbidden to discuss the case.

New facts or documents were not introduced into evidence. No witnesses were called, unlike in the Andrew Johnson and Clinton impeachment trials.

Questions of fact and law were put to the prosecutors and defense lawyers, who gave self-serving answers, rather than to the person in the room most suited to the task, Chief Justice John Roberts.

Roberts had only limited say in the proceeding's substantive matters and little appetite for more, in deference to the elected representatives. Though not a supplicant, he was more of a moderator than a jurist.

The president chose his lawyers in part for how he thought they would look on television, an acknowledgment that the audience that mattered to him — his base — was outside the room.

There was ringing rhetoric about the meaning of words on sepia-toned parchment from the 1700s and in 2019 text messages from the smartphones of all the president's men.

The Federalist Papers and the contemporary record of a president pressing another country for a political favor were all part of this continuum.

Yet those arguments were in the realm of theater rather than of justice.

In the parlance of Washington and these times, everyone was "playing a role."

With Alexander Hamilton taking a star turn again, like on Broadway.

## **NASA's record-setting Koch, crewmates safely back from space**

**By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV Associated Press**

MOSCOW (AP) — NASA astronaut Christina Koch, who has spent nearly 11 months in orbit on the longest spaceflight by a woman, landed safely in Kazakhstan on Thursday along with two of her International Space Station crewmates.

The Soyuz capsule carrying Koch, along with station Commander Luca Parmitano of the European Space Agency and the Russian space agency Roscosmos' Alexander Skvortsov, touched down southeast of Dzhezkazgan, Kazakhstan, at 3:12 p.m. (0912 GMT).

Koch wrapped up a 328-day mission on her first flight into space, providing researchers the opportunity to observe the effects of long-duration spaceflight on a woman. The study is important since NASA plans to return to the moon under the Artemis program and prepare for the human exploration of Mars.

Koch smiled and gave a thumbs-up as support crew helped her get out of the capsule and placed her in a chair for a quick post-flight check-up alongside her crewmates. Russian space officials said they were in good shape.

Koch, who grew up in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and now lives near the Gulf of Mexico in Galveston, Texas, with her husband, Bob, told The Associated Press last month that taking part in the first all-female spacewalk was the highlight of her mission.

Koch said she and fellow NASA astronaut Jessica Meir appreciated that the Oct. 18 spacewalk "could serve as an inspiration for future space explorers."

Parmitano and Skvortsov spent 201 days in space.

After preliminary medical evaluations, the crew will be flown by Russian helicopters to the city of Karaganda in Kazakhstan. Koch and Parmitano will then board a NASA plane bound for Cologne, Germany, where Parmitano will be greeted by European space officials before Koch proceeds home to Houston.

Skvortsov will be flown to the Star City Cosmonaut Training Center outside Moscow.

## **Not guilty: Senate acquits Trump of impeachment charges**

**By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump won impeachment acquittal in the U.S. Senate, bringing to a close only the third presidential trial in American history with votes that split the country, tested civic norms and fed the tumultuous 2020 race for the White House.

With Chief Justice John Roberts presiding, senators sworn to do “impartial justice” stood and stated their votes for the roll call — “guilty” or “not guilty” — in a swift tally almost exclusively along party lines. Trump, the chief justice then declared, shall “be, and is hereby, acquitted of the charges.”

The outcome Wednesday followed months of remarkable impeachment proceedings, from Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s House to Mitch McConnell’s Senate, reflecting the nation’s unrelenting partisan divide three years into the Trump presidency.

What started as Trump’s request for Ukraine to “do us a favor” spun into a far-reaching, 28,000-page report compiled by House investigators accusing an American president of engaging in shadow diplomacy that threatened U.S. foreign relations for personal, political gain as he pressured the ally to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden ahead of the next election.

No president has ever been removed by the Senate.

A politically emboldened Trump had eagerly predicted vindication, deploying the verdict as a political anthem in his reelection bid. The president claims he did nothing wrong, decrying the “witch hunt” as an extension of special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe into Russian 2016 campaign interference by those out to get him from the start of his presidency.

Trump’s political campaign tweeted videos, statements and a cartoon dance celebration, while the Republican president himself tweeted that he would speak Thursday from the White House about “our Country’s VICTORY on the Impeachment Hoax.”

However, the Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said there will always be “a giant asterisk next to the president’s acquittal” because of the Senate’s quick trial and Republicans’ unprecedented rejection of witnesses.

A majority of senators expressed unease with Trump’s pressure campaign on Ukraine that resulted in the two articles of impeachment. But two-thirds of them would have had to vote “guilty” to reach the Constitution’s bar of high crimes and misdemeanors to convict and remove Trump from office. The final tallies in the GOP-held Senate fell far short.

On the first article of impeachment, abuse of power, the vote was 52-48 favoring acquittal. The second, obstruction of Congress, also produced a not guilty verdict, 53-47.

Only one Republican, Mitt Romney of Utah, the party’s defeated 2012 presidential nominee, broke with the GOP.

Romney choked up as he said he drew on his faith and “oath before God” to vote guilty on the first charge, abuse of power. He voted to acquit on the second.

All Democrats found the president guilty on the two charges.

Both Bill Clinton in 1999 and Andrew Johnson in 1868 drew cross-party support when they were left in office after impeachment trials. Richard Nixon resigned rather than face sure impeachment, expecting members of his own party to vote to remove him.

Ahead of Wednesday’s voting, some of the most closely watched senators took to the Senate floor to tell their constituents, and the nation, what they had decided.

Influential GOP Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee worried a guilty verdict would “pour gasoline on the fire” of the nation’s culture wars over Trump and “rip the country apart.” He said the House proved its case but it just didn’t rise to the level of impeachment.

Other Republicans siding with Trump said it was time to end what McConnell called the “circus” and move on.

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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.

Even key Democrats from states where Trump is popular — Doug Jones in Alabama and Joe Manchin in West Virginia — risked backlash and voted to convict.

"Senators are elected to make tough choices," Jones said.

Several senators trying to win the Democratic Party's nomination to face Trump — Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Amy Klobuchar — dashed back from early primary state New Hampshire to vote.

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 Biden and his son, Hunter Biden, ahead of the 2020 election.

They detailed an extraordinary effort by Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani that set off alarms at the highest levels of government. After Trump's July 25 call with Ukraine, the White House temporarily halted U.S. aid to the struggling ally battling hostile Russia at its border. The money was eventually released in September as Congress intervened.

When the House probed Trump's actions, the president 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, insisting "right matters" and "truth matters" and Trump "is not who you are."

Schiff told The Associated Press he hoped the votes to convict "will serve as a constraint on the president's wrongdoing."

"But we're going to have to be vigilant," he said.

Pelosi was initially reluctant to launch impeachment proceedings against Trump when she took control of the House after the 2018 election, warning against a partisan vote.

But a whistleblower complaint of his conversation with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy set off alarms. The president's call was placed the day after Mueller announced the findings of his Russia probe.

When Trump told Pelosi in September that the call was perfect, she was stunned. Days later, the speaker announced the formal impeachment inquiry.

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. Seventeen ambassadors, national security officials and others had testified in the House.

Trump's star 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 equate their own political interest with the national interest.

McConnell braced for dissent, but with a 53-47 Republican majority he refuted efforts to prolong the trial with more witnesses, arguing the House should have done a better job.

Roberts, as the rare court of impeachment came to a close, wished senators well in "our common commitment to the Constitution," and hoped to meet again "under happier circumstances."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who had been drawn into the Ukraine affair, signed off on the Senate judgment later Wednesday. "Tonight, it was my pleasure to sign President @realDonaldTrump's full acquittal," he tweeted.

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



## Global tourism takes major hit as virus halts Chinese travel

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

This should have been a good year for global tourism, with trade tensions gradually easing, certain economies growing and banner events like the Summer Olympics taking place in Tokyo. But the viral outbreak in China has thrown the travel industry into chaos, threatening billions in losses and keeping millions of would-be travelers at home.

Gabrielle Autry, an American who lives in China, had expected to travel to Hong Kong this week to get engaged to her Chinese boyfriend. But those plans are on hold, and the couple is quarantined in their apartment in Hangzhou, an eight-hour drive from the epicenter of the outbreak in Wuhan. As of Wednesday, China had reported 28,018 cases and 563 deaths.

"We are thankful for our health and that we are together here," Autry said. She doesn't know when they will be able to reschedule their trip.

Thirty airlines have suspended service to China and 25,000 flights were cancelled this week alone, according to OAG, a travel data company. Hotel rooms in China are largely empty; Chinese hotel occupancy plummeted 75% in the last two weeks of January, according to STR, a hotel research firm. More than 7,000 passengers are quarantined on two cruise ships in Japan and Hong Kong.

Before the outbreak, the United Nations World Tourism Organization was forecasting growth of 3-4% in global tourism this year, an increase over the 1.5 billion tourist arrivals in 2019. Upsides, like economic improvement in the Middle East and Latin America, outweighed some potential downsides, like the uncertainty of Brexit or any lingering U.S.-China trade disputes.

Central to those numbers was the promise of an ever-growing number of travelers from China, where rapidly growing incomes have led to a global tourism boom. In 2018, Chinese tourists made nearly 150 million trips abroad and spent \$277 billion, according to IHS Markit. That's up from just \$15.4 billion in 2002.

The loss of those tourists is being felt most acutely in Asia, which usually attracts 75% of Lunar New Year travelers, says ForwardKeys, a travel consulting company. The new year, which began Jan. 25, is one of China's major travel periods.

Disney said Wednesday it could lose \$175 million if its parks in Hong Kong and Shanghai remain closed for two months.

Thailand expects to lose \$9.7 billion in tourist income from Chinese travelers through June, Tourism and Sports Minister Pipat Ratchakitprakan told The Associated Press.

"The day that we heard the news (about the virus), the tourists were gone," said Arisara Chamsue, who runs a shop near the Grand Palace in Bangkok. "The number has dropped. And I can only make a tenth or two tenths of what I normally make."

Tourists from elsewhere are also canceling travel to Asia. Brian Guyer of Bozeman, Montana, planned to go to Japan next week for a dream ski vacation after finding a good deal on Alaska Airlines. But he and his partner decided to cancel because the trip required a 14-hour layover in Beijing. They weren't sure they'd be allowed to enter Japan or the U.S. after passing through China.

Others are taking a wait-and-see approach, including concert pianist Julio Elizalde and violinist Ray Chen. The two have a six-city concert tour of China scheduled in May. They're watching closely; as long as things improve over the next month or two, Elizalde says they plan to honor that commitment.

The cancellations, however, are adding up for airlines. Tourism Economics, a data and consulting firm, estimates that U.S. airlines will lose \$1.6 billion this year because of lost business to and from China. The firm doesn't have estimates for Chinese airlines.

Cruise lines are also feeling the pinch. Carnival and Royal Caribbean have canceled around 20 China cruises between them, and many cruise lines aren't letting passengers board if they have been in China or Hong Kong in the 14 days before the ship sails. That affects thousands of passengers; Royal Caribbean's Shanghai-based Spectrum of the Seas ship has a double-occupancy capacity of 4,246 people.

Miami-based Royal Caribbean estimates that the cancellations so far will shave about 1% off 2020 earnings, and that will double if travel restrictions in China are still in place at the end of February.

Destinations further from the outbreak are also feeling the loss of Chinese tourists. Australia, already

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battered by wildfires, just imposed a travel ban on visitors from mainland China. China was the largest source for international visitors to Australia last year, with 1.4 million tourists who spent \$13.4 billion, according to IHS Markit.

Italy could lose \$5 billion in tourism revenue this year, said Demoskopika, a polling agency. In the U.S., Tourism Economics predicts a 28% drop in Chinese visitors, to around 2 million. That represents about \$6 billion less spent on travel and airfare.

Some worried travelers are even canceling trips to places that aren't yet impacted. Stanley Kolodziejczak, tax director at White and Case law firm in New York, planned to visit South Africa and Brazil this year, but those trips are on hold. He's concerned those countries wouldn't have the systems in place to detect and manage the virus.

But Christina Pedroni, senior vice president of Liberty Travel, a New Jersey-based travel agency, said she hasn't seen many cancellations for destinations outside of Asia. Some customers heading to Asia switched to another destination instead of cancelling entirely, she said.

"This could change if the situation grows more severe. But for now, most travelers are leaving impending travel plans as they are," Pedroni said.

Tourism will recover, as it has from previous health scares. But analysts are divided about the amount of time that recovery will take. Tourism Economics, citing the SARS outbreak in 2003, expects it will be four years before Chinese tourism to the U.S. gets back to previously expected levels. The World Travel and Tourism Council, a tourism advocacy group, says it usually takes 19 months for visitor numbers to recover after a viral outbreak.

David Tarsh, a spokesman for ForwardKeys, said there are some key differences with the SARS epidemic, which killed 774 people in 2003. In that case, he said, media reported that the virus was impacting all of southeast Asia, even though it was confined to China, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Singapore. That hurt tourism even in places that were far from the outbreak, like India.

This time, he said, travelers are more likely to understand that the virus is centered in Wuhan, China, which could help the recovery progress more quickly.

SARS also hit when travelers were still fearful after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York, he said. Tarsh also said China has been more open about its response this time around.

"China has taken very dramatic action," he said.

AP Writers Preeyapa T. Khunsong and Tassanee Vejpongsa in Bangkok, David Koenig in Dallas and Colleen Barry in Milan contributed.

## 'A floating prison': Cruise of Asia ends in virus quarantine

By FOSTER KLUG and MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP) — David Abel's 50th wedding anniversary luxury cruise began with him eating his fill and enjoying the sights of East Asia.

It's ending with him quarantined in his cabin aboard the Diamond Princess for two extra weeks, eating a "lettuce sandwich with some chicken inside" and watching 20 infected people escorted off the ship, heading for hospitals for treatment of a new virus.

Abel is among hundreds of passengers on two cruise ships — in Japan and Hong Kong — caught in the drama and fear about the little-understood virus that just emerged in December. Tests are still pending on some passengers and crew who have symptoms or had contact with infected people.

"It's not going to be a luxury cruise; it's going to be like a floating prison," Abel said on Facebook from the ship in the port of Yokohama, outside Tokyo.

As Japanese officials loaded the ship with supplies Thursday to make the quarantine as bearable as possible, passengers took to social media to highlight small kindnesses by the crew and to complain about dwindling medicine, the quality of the food and the inability to exercise or even leave their cabins.

Their photos and videos showed the vessel that once had 3,711 passengers and crew is now a ghost

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ship, deserted reception areas, swimming pools and hallways. Babies on the Hong Kong ship were reportedly running out of diapers and milk.

"I think for many passengers, it's going to be absolute boredom," Abel said in a separate interview. He considers himself lucky that he has a cabin with a balcony. "The people I feel really sorry for are those with inside cabins who've got no natural light, no fresh air. It's going to be pretty grim for them for two weeks."

Grim is one way to describe the virus and the fear it's created. China counts more than 28,000 cases and it's spread to more than 20 countries. Still, fear has spread faster than the disease. Masks and hand sanitizer are sold out in many areas of Seoul, Tokyo and Bangkok. Health workers are striking in Hong Kong and anti-Chinese discrimination has been seen across Asia. Taiwan has banned international cruise ships.

On the Diamond Princess, there were signs people were trying to make the best of a bad situation.

Yardley Wong, a passenger from Hong Kong traveling with her husband, son and her parents, said on Twitter that the crew gave her son playing cards, coloring pens and other gifts "to kill off boredom."

Australians Paul and Coralie Williamson said their cabin was smaller than a motel room and they had heard complaints from others about not having medication, or enough information.

But, after 34 years of marriage, Coralie Williamson said: "If I'm going to be stuck in a room with anyone, I would rather it be Paul than anyone else."

"So it's OK. We will need to go for a long walk on the beach when we get home," she told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

People posted photos of breakfast, a bowl of fruit salad, boiled eggs, juice and a croissant. One passenger celebrating their ninth wedding anniversary got a "happy anniversary" card from the ship staff.

"We're here for a long haul. I think it is going to get a little bit testing, obviously. But I don't know. What do we do? We couldn't jump out of the boat; that's a bit cold," Jacqui Fidrmuc from the city of Cairns told Australia's Nine Network.

Japanese health officials told reporters that a medical team and supplies were being sent to the ship. At the port where the ship dropped off infected patients and loaded up food and supplies, a person in a hazmat bodysuit entered the ship carrying two boxes labeled "thermometers."

On the ship quarantined in Hong Kong, its more than 3,600 passengers and crew were being screened because three passengers on a previous voyage had the virus. Hong Kong officials said they would try to track down 5,000 people who took previous voyages on the World Dream.

Hong Kong lawmaker Jeremy Tan said a woman on board called him Wednesday night to say she and some other mothers were running out of milk powder and diapers for their babies. He said he believed there were five or more babies on the ship, and that he delivered the essentials to authorities.

Life on the Diamond Princess in Yokohama, Abel said, "has changed beyond recognition to what you would call a luxury cruise." One meal was just a glass of orange juice, a yogurt and a bit of melon. Another was a "lettuce sandwich with some chicken inside" and a dessert.

When masked crew members hand over and pick up the trays of food, he said, "it's very brief. There's no physical contact apart from touching the tray."

Even though the sick people have been taken off the boat, there was still unease. "We've been breathing the same air as those that have been removed," Abel said.

"How do we cope with it?" Abel asked on Facebook. "We can either be creative and thinking positive things or we can be dragging ourselves down into the gutter. I certainly won't be doing that."

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Yamaguchi reported from Tokyo. Associated Press journalists Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia, contributed to this report.

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## This week's American turmoil, seen through allies' eyes

By The Associated Press undefined

For American politics, it's been a week for the ages: a bungled start to the 2020 presidential primary season, a State of Union speech with partisanship on full display and a conclusion to the most contentious chapter of all — the nation's third-ever impeachment trial.

Watching all this from afar are allies, foes and those who have looked to the United States for stability. Here, from AP correspondents in four regions, is a look at how some key American allies are eyeing the 2020 U.S. election and the jumbled months that precede it — whether in the hope that Donald Trump's Republican presidency continues for a second term or that a Democrat returns to the White House.

### FRANCE

It's safe to say that many in France are viewing the U.S. election through their own prism — four years during which one of the world's oldest international alliances has been bashed around.

"Since President Trump's arrival, we've felt a considerable distance with dear America," says Jacques Mistral, a French former prime ministerial and government economics adviser and former financial affairs adviser at the French Embassy in Washington. "He has alienated everybody."

Famously muscular white-knuckle handshakes between Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron have served as metaphors for a difficult, turbulent relationship. On issues that are dear to Macron — notably battling climate change and trying to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons — there have been sharp divergences. The experience of losing the White House's ear on such key issues has been somewhat humbling for France, showing how little it can get done alone on the international stage if Washington is opposed.

"If the United States put all their weight behind not doing something, then there is no chance of that thing happening," Mistral said.

Though France has had famous disputes in the past with Washington, notably saying "non" to the U.S.-led war that toppled Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, the feeling in Paris used to be that Washington was dependable and predictable. No longer.

"Uncertainty," said Mistral, "is now permanent."

U.S. elections are always watched closely in France, partly because of the weight Washington wields in the world but also because of the vast campaign spending and electoral procedures that have no equivalent in French politics.

This time, the election is liable to be watched even closer still.

"Of course it concerns us," Mistral said. "The world is getting worse and worse because of the United States now."

— John Leicester in Paris

### BRITAIN

Britain knows a thing or two about extreme polarization. Ever since the 2016 referendum in which the country voted to leave the European Union, political discourse in this island nation has been riven by division.

Now some here wonder: Can America still claim to be the beacon of democracy and fair play the world over? Or does an advancing tribalism erase the country's longstanding claim to the title?

"People in Britain are wondering if America really stands for the values of liberal democracy," said Jeffrey William Howard, an associate professor of politics at University College London. "Is it capable of being the leader of the free world?"

Regardless of the answer, Britain really needs the U.S. right now.

Britain left the EU last week, starting a yearlong transition period in which it will build a new economic relationship between the bloc. There are difficult negotiations ahead as the U.K. goes its own way while trying to preserve links with its biggest trading partner, covering everything from tariffs and product standards to British industry's ability to recruit foreign workers. The British government also needs to negotiate

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separate trade deals with individual countries now that the country has broken away.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's top trade prize outside the EU is the United States, the world's biggest economy and the destination for 18% of British exports.

But the Americans have already made challenging demands. Trade in food, for example, and the standards associated with it, come up again and again. Reconciling such things will be difficult because any attempt to meet U.S. demands by lowering British standards will nudge the U.K. further away from the rules it needs to follow in trade with the EU.

So a choice is coming: Will Britain veer more toward the U.S. or stick closer to Europe?

"British citizens are extremely worried that we are going to have to bend over backwards to give the Trump administration what it wants to get a trade deal," Howard said. "We are not in the same egalitarian relationship we were in when we were part of the EU."

— Danica Kirka in London

## ISRAEL

Israelis and Palestinians have a lot riding on the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been perhaps Trump's biggest international fan. Trump has upended decades of U.S. foreign policy by promoting measures favored by Netanyahu and his nationalist allies, such as recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving the U.S. Embassy there. He's also recognized Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights and pulled out of the nuclear deal with Iran.

Just last week, Trump unveiled his much-anticipated Mideast plan that sided with most of Israel's nationalist positions. The close alliance has paid off handsomely for Netanyahu in helping him promote Israel as a gateway to Washington and opening diplomatic opportunities such as his recent meeting with the leader of Sudan. Trump's gestures have made him popular in Israel, and Netanyahu has trumpeted their friendship in his current elections campaign.

But such a tight embrace has alienated many U.S. Jews, who lean Democratic, and has undermined the traditional bipartisan support Israel has enjoyed in Congress. Many in Israel fear a blowback if a Democrat is elected and Israel is too closely associated with the divisive Trump.

Lior Weintraub, a former Israeli diplomat in Washington, said recent drama in the U.S. is having little impact on Israelis and, if anything, created a kinship over similar turmoil in Israeli politics.

"There is no dent in Israel's admiration of America or any damage to American standing," he said. "People here look at America as this big sister, and some of the events are similar to what is going on in Israel."

Michael Oren, a former Israeli ambassador to the U.S. and an expert on American history, thinks the recent polarization of American politics as exhibited in the past week reflects the "breakdown of American civility," which he calls "one of the mainstays of American politics."

"I think the fact that half of America instinctively opposes the other half weakens its ability to have an impact," he said.

As for the Palestinians: Trump didn't even include them in his consultations for his plan, which offered them limited self-rule in Gaza, parts of the West Bank and some sparsely populated areas of Israel in return for meeting a long list of conditions. It fell far short of traditional Palestinian statehood demands and came after Trump shut down their diplomatic offices in Washington and cut funding to Palestinian aid programs.

— Aron Heller in Jerusalem

## SOUTH KOREA

For a country like South Korea, which hosts 28,500 U.S. troops as a deterrence against its nuclear-armed neighbor, this American election is viewed through a security prism.

For the past two years, President Moon Jae-in has teamed up with Trump to reach out to North Korean ruler Kim Jong Un. A flurry of nuclear diplomacy followed, including three summits between Trump and Kim. But while Trump has touted his globally-watched summits with the previously reclusive Kim as major foreign policy achievements, negotiations have faltered and Pyongyang has made no major steps toward denuclearization.

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Inter-Korean relations have been subsequently strained, posing a setback to Moon's push for greater rapprochement with the North.

Moon has also faced a U.S. president who has openly bemoaned regular military drills with Seoul as "very, very expensive." Trump has called for Moon's government to drastically increase its financial contribution to pay for U.S. military deployment on the peninsula.

This has gone against the grain of decades of an airtight alliance forged in the blood sacrificed in the Korean War in the 1950s — ties that no U.S. president until now has ever questioned.

Whether the next U.S. president is Trump or a Democrat, many experts in Seoul feel it's likely Washington's stance toward North Korea will harden.

"A re-election will free Trump from political considerations and make it easier for him to employ a harder and more principle-based approach on North Korea," said Moon Seong Mook of the Seoul-based Korea Research Institute for National Strategy.

— Kim Tong-hyung and Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul

## Not a break, but fissures in US-Iraqi military alliance

By **SAMYA KULLAB** and **QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA** Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — A new watchtower rose over an American military base in northern Iraq, and cranes lifted hefty slabs of concrete to reinforce the barricades in beefed-up protections. The danger, soldiers there said, came not from the constellation of militant sleeper cells embedded in the landscape but further afield in Iran.

U.S. forces in Iraq have been on guard for retaliation by Iran or its Shiite militias allies since the U.S. killed Iran's top general in Iraq with an airstrike in Baghdad last month. The Jan. 3 strike also fueled a wave of outrage among Iraq's Shiite leadership and intensified demands that American troops leave the country.

Since then, Iraqi leaders have scaled back the saber-rattling rhetoric. But behind closed doors, the bitterness has poisoned the partnership. The government told the Iraqi military not to seek U.S. help in operations fighting the Islamic State group, two senior Iraqi military officials told The Associated Press — a sign that authorities are serious about rethinking the strategic relationship.

At stake are vital U.S.-provided weapons, military technologies and aircraft that have been key in countering the threat of Islamic State group militants trying to make a comeback in northern and western Iraq. The prospect of losing that help is one reason why Iraqi politicians have cooled their demands for American forces to go immediately. Senior Iraqi military officials oppose a withdrawal.

"To us the American presence is like the electricity network in a house," said a brigadier general stationed in western Iraq, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to media. "If the light is turned off the whole place goes dark."

In the wake of the U.S. strike that killed Iran's Gen. Qassem Soleimani and a senior Iraqi militia commander, Iraq's parliament passed a non-binding resolution demanding the government force out the Americans. Tens of thousands marched in an anti-U.S. rally inspired by a radical cleric, while Iraq's outgoing premier, Adel Abdul-Mahdi, openly stated that the troops must go.

American forces had to halt joint operations with Iraqi military against IS after the strike, a pause that would last for three weeks. In the interim, the U.S. troops fortified bases against potential retaliation by Iran or Iraqi Shiite militias — like the new tower and beefed-up barricades at a base visited recently by the AP in the northern Iraqi city of Irbil.

About 5,200 U.S. soldiers are stationed in Iraqi bases to support local troops fighting IS militants, part of a larger international coalition invited by the Iraqi government in 2014.

But since then, Western officials say Iraqi authorities have taken no concrete measures to hasten a withdrawal plan.

"I'd say with virtually all of the Shiite political party leaders there's been behind closed doors and in private meetings a much more thoughtful approach on how they deal with this and a desire on their part to maintain a relationship and a coalition partnership that they regard as essential for Iraq," said a U.S.

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official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

In a Cabinet session, Abdul-Mahdi said it was up to the next government to see through Parliament's resolution. Prime Minister-designate Mohammed Allawi, a former communications minister, has not made his policy known.

Western diplomats were told that Iraq had formed a committee to study the issue of America's troop presence in Iraq, but two Iraqi officials said there was no official sign off from Abdul-Mahdi formally creating such a committee. James Jeffrey, special envoy for the global coalition to defeat IS, said, speaking of the committee, "there has not been any real engagement," in remarks to reporters in Washington on Jan. 23.

Washington has responded to Iraq's requests to initiate troop withdrawals with blunt refusal, even threatening sanctions that could cripple Iraq's economy.

Instead of directly pushing for U.S. withdrawal, Iraq's government appears to be quietly distancing itself on the ground. Though the U.S. announced joint operations against IS had resumed, Iraq has been unclear. The Iraqi military announced the end of the pause on Jan. 30, but a military spokesman rescinded the claim in remarks to state television. It was not followed up with a clarification. On at least two occasions in January, U.S. officials said they expected the pause would be lifted imminently.

Two Iraqi military officials and a militia commander said this week that the government told its military not to seek assistance from the U.S.-led coalition in anti-IS operations and to minimize cooperation. The three spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press.

"Until now, we have not asked the Americans to provide assistance, we rely on our capabilities to pursue IS elements. The presence of the Americans in the joint operations is only formal," a senior military intelligence official told The Associated Press.

Another of the officials, a commander in Iraq's elite U.S.-trained Counter-Terrorism Services in western Anbar province, said some training continues, but "as for military operations and carrying out operations, there is no support."

No coalition airstrikes have been carried out against IS since the killing of Soleimani, said coalition spokesman Myles Caggins. In contrast, 45 strikes were conducted in Iraq in October and November. "The Iraqis have not requested assistance with airstrikes in recent weeks while our operations are paused," Caggins said.

U.S. Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, the top American commander for the Middle East, met Tuesday with Iraqi leaders and acknowledged that joint military operations and training have been scaled back, although he said U.S. special operations forces are doing some missions with Iraqi commandos.

"We're still in a period of turbulence. We've got a ways to go," he said.

A full-scale U.S. withdrawal would bring a major setback in Iraqi capabilities to fight IS that Iraqi military officers acknowledge. The U.S. withdrew from the country in 2011, only for the Iraqi military to collapse in the face of the 2014 blitz by IS that overran the north and west. As a result, the government invited the Americans back.

"The Iraqi forces present in western Iraq need continuous air support and logistical support," said the CTS official. "These are provided to us by coalition forces, especially the U.S. If they are taken out, we will be paralyzed."

"The battle against IS is becoming increasingly technological, and we don't own any of these technologies. Only the Americans do," said a senior army intelligence official.

The Iraqis also rely on U.S. military expertise to maintain their American-made F-16 fighter aircraft.

In the Pentagon's March 2019 funding justification for the 2020 fiscal year, the Defense Department said if the requested \$1.045 billion was not allocated to continue counter-IS training and equipment, it "would jeopardize" Iraq's ability to solidify gains made by the coalition, potentially forcing them to "strengthen relations with other state actors" — a reference to Iran.

An Sept. 2018 report to Congress by Inspector General Glen Fine said Iraqi security forces exhibited "systemic weakness" and were "years if not decades," away from ending reliance on coalition assistance.

Iraq's Kurdish and the majority of Sunni factions oppose an American withdrawal. Many Sunnis consider

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the U.S. presence as a bulwark against both IS and Iranian power.

"If the Americans go out then we will be attacked by everyone, and by everyone I mean IS, the government, the militias and the parties," said Abu Ahmad, a grocery shop owner in the Old City of Mosul, which was overrun by IS in 2014. "It is the U.S. that keeps them away from swallowing Mosul."

Associated Press writers Salar Salim in Mosul, Iraq; Mathew Lee in Washington and Lolita C. Baldor, aboard a U.S. military aircraft, contributed to this report.

## Buttigieg, Sanders nearly tied as Iowa caucus results narrow

By STEVE PEOPLES and JULIE PACE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pete Buttigieg and Bernie Sanders are nearly tied in the Iowa Democratic caucuses, with nearly all results counted in a contest marred by technical issues and reporting delays.

The race remained too early to call early Thursday with 97% of precincts reporting. Party officials were scrambling to verify the remaining results three days after Iowans gathered at caucus sites across the state to begin choosing which Democrat will take on President Donald Trump in November.

A new batch of results released just after midnight narrowed the margin between Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, and Sanders, the progressive senator from Vermont. Buttigieg has a lead of three state delegate equivalents out of 2,098 counted.

The deadlocked contest gives both Buttigieg and Sanders a burst of momentum as they seek to pull away from the crowded field. The nearly complete results show them leading Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, with former Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Amy Klobuchar trailing behind.

But the results in Iowa were muddied by the stunning breakdown of the caucus reporting process in a state that traditionally kicks off presidential nominating contests. Iowa officials initially attributed a delay in reporting results to technical problems with an app that precinct chairs were supposed to use to record votes, then to backlogs as those volunteers tried to call the party to submit their totals.

Even as the total number of results ticked up throughout the day Wednesday, obstacles remained. Some tally sheets were making their way to party headquarters in Des Moines through the mail, which contributed to the delay.

Much of the political world has already shifted its attention to next-up New Hampshire, which holds the first primary election in the Democrats' 2020 nomination fight on Tuesday. Both Buttigieg and Sanders are leading contenders there, as well.

The two men are separated by 40 years in age and conflicting ideology.

Sanders, a 78-year-old self-described democratic socialist, has been a progressive powerhouse for decades. Buttigieg, a 38-year-old former municipal official, represents the more moderate wing of the Democratic Party. Buttigieg is also the first openly gay candidate to earn presidential primary delegates.

Their strength in Iowa put them in the crosshairs of rivals as the race shifted to New Hampshire. Biden, who fell far short of expectations in Iowa, cast both Buttigieg and Sanders as risky choices for Democrats, given the former mayor's relative inexperience and the senator's descriptions of himself as a socialist.

Sanders is making his second run for the White House. He surprised many Democrats in 2016 with his strong challenge to Hillary Clinton, but entered the 2020 contest as a front-runner. He's topped the field in fundraising, despite eschewing high-dollar donors.

Sanders and his supporters raised issues with the primary process after the 2016 election, prompting the Democratic National Committee to make changes that affected the Iowa reporting regulations.

As a result, Iowa released three sets of data from the caucuses: the tally of voter preferences at the start of the caucus; their preferences after supporters of candidates who reached less than 15% made a second choice; and the results of state delegate equivalents.

The final alignment results are used to determine state delegate equivalents, which is the metric the AP has long used to call the winner of the caucus. Democrats pick their nominee based on delegate totals.

With 97% of precincts reporting, Sanders is leading in the first alignment results and has a narrower



edge in the final alignment.

Peoples reported from New York.

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

## Trump barrels into 2020 campaign, emboldened after acquittal

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the final gavel banging down Wednesday on impeachment, President Donald Trump barreled ahead in his reelection fight with a united Republican Party behind him, and emboldened by reassuring poll numbers and chaos in the Democratic race to replace him.

Republican senators voted largely in lockstep to acquit Trump, relying on a multitude of rationales for keeping him in office: He's guilty, but his conduct wasn't impeachable; his July telephone conversation with Ukraine's president was a "perfect call"; there's an election in 10 months and it's up to voters to determine his fate.

For Trump, there was one overriding message to draw from his acquittal: Even at a time of maximum political peril, it's his Republican Party.

One day after Trump avoided talk of impeachment in his State of the Union address and argued that he had delivered on his 2016 campaign promises, the president already was moving to use impeachment as a 2020 rallying cry.

Trump tweeted after the vote that he would mark his acquittal with a statement at noon Thursday to "discuss our Country's VICTORY on the Impeachment Hoax!" And the president's supporters were being invited to join him in an East Room victory lap.

The president and his allies sent giddy tweets needling his accusers and Democrats. In his first message once the trial closed, Trump posted an animated video using a Time magazine cover to suggest he would remain in office "4EVA."

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., released a video of him tearing up the impeachment articles. And White House social media director Dan Scavino tweeted an animated GIF of Trump dancing.

Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter and a senior White House aide, said in a post: "This factional fever and incoherent, ill-conceived process has finally ended and the President has rightfully been acquitted. It is time for our Country to move forward. Together."

The nation's first presidential nominating contest, the Iowa caucuses, handed more good news to Trump. A tabulating mishap threw the Democrats into chaos, depriving any candidate of a clear victory and allowing Trump to paint the Democrats as incompetent and corrupt.

Trump's tenuous relationship with the GOP establishment has been a consistent theme of his political life in recent years, and he has repeatedly put the party's values to the test. Still, most Republicans have grudgingly stuck with him, through the revelations of the "Access Hollywood" tape, in which he was heard boasting about sexually assaulting women, and Charlottesville, where he defended white supremacists during a racial clash in the Virginia college town, as well as Helsinki, where he sided with Russia's Vladimir Putin over U.S. intelligence agencies about Moscow's 2016 election interference.

Now, they are giving him the victory he's been waiting for and lashing their fates to his like never before.

Throughout the impeachment process, Trump drew satisfaction as Republican senators, many of whom opposed his long-shot candidacy and still dismiss him in private, overwhelmingly defended him and defied convention, tradition and public opinion polling in the process.

Scott Jennings, a longtime Republican political adviser, said the Senate impeachment trial strengthened Trump's hand within the party, especially with his core conservative base.

"It actually endears him to his most committed supporters. If Trump is a disrupter, it makes all the sense in the world for the insiders to try to get rid of him. It hands Trump a real messaging point," Jennings said. "I see no weaknesses in Trump now."

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While Trump is among the least popular presidents in modern history, he has nonetheless maintained wide support among Republicans, with 83% approving of his job performance in a January poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center.

Taking their cues from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, with whom Trump has a respectful, if not particularly close, relationship, GOP senators fell in line to block new witnesses and documents in the trial. The final vote Wednesday was no different: Only one Republican, Utah Sen. Mitt Romney, a longtime Trump critic, voted for removal.

Romney seemed to anticipate retribution, telling Fox News, "I have broad enough shoulders to bear the consequences."

With the impeachment trial behind him, Trump loses a reliable foil. But he will soon gain a replacement with a general election foe.

"Donald Trump is in the best political position of his presidency, in part due to his opponents' miscalculations," said GOP consultant Terry Sullivan. "He's at his best when he has a clear opponent, because he's terrible at playing defense but his political offensive game is second to none. I predict the next nine months will only get better for him as it becomes a two-person race that allows him to define it as a choice between he and his opponent."

The president told confidants during the trial that he was impressed not just by the robust defense offered by his lawyers, but by the TV interviews offered by GOP senators outside the chamber, according to three White House aides and Republicans close to the West Wing were not authorized to discuss private conversations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

He crowed to advisers about the loyalty being shown to him and predicted the show of force bodes well for party enthusiasm in November's election, the people said.

"I have never seen the Republican Party as Strong and as Unified as it is right now. Thank you!" Trump tweeted during the trial.

Trump has benefited from a new class of Republicans in Congress who have proved to be more partisan than their predecessors. Party members also know that Trump rains retribution on those who cross him. For all of Trump's talk about how Democrats stick together, he's got the Republicans in his fist.

"We've never had a president, as I said, who's as vindictive and nasty as this one and he strikes fear in the hearts of a lot of people," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said last week.

Trump's sky-high approval ratings within his own party acted as a deterrent that kept nearly all Republicans from breaking ranks. The fear was palpable among GOP senators worried not just about being the target of an angry tweet but about a Trump-backed primary challenger or a revolt among strong Republican supporters.

Still personally stung by impeachment, Trump is betting that he can sell his acquittal to the American people as a vindication, that he can activate his supporters and mollify even his skeptics in the center. Democrats are left with the more challenging task of explaining the details of the Ukraine case to the American people, and the White House believes Trump's less complicated message will prevail.

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## Trump wins acquittal, but Ukraine saga far from over

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The impeachment of President Donald Trump is over, but it's far from case closed on Ukraine.

A full accounting of Trump's dealings with Ukraine, stemming in large part from the foreign policy entanglements pursued by personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, remains unfinished despite Trump's acquittal Wednesday in the Senate.

As the president launches into his reelection campaign, pushing past the charges that threatened his legacy, it's only a matter of time before fresh details, documents and eyewitnesses emerge, including

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revelations in a new book from John Bolton, the former national security adviser.

The result could be the start of a prolonged investigation with no clear endpoint, keeping questions about the president's conduct alive through the election in November. It's the kind of prolonged fallout that Trump and his GOP allies sought to avoid as they rejected a lengthy impeachment trial.

"More is going to come out every day, indeed it has come out every day and every week," said House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff in an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press.

Schiff, the House's lead impeachment manager, said that no final decisions have been made on whether to subpoena Bolton in the House after the Senate voted not to hear his testimony.

"The president's basic lack of character, his willingness to cheat in the election — he's not going to stop," Schiff said. "It's not going to change, which means that we are going to have to remain eternally vigilant."

Bolton, who was in the room as Trump made key decisions, will be telling his story soon, possibly in testimony, if House leaders decide to subpoena him, or in a book that is scheduled for release in March.

And it's not just Bolton.

Giuliani associate Lev Parnas, a Florida businessman who claims to have been working for Trump on Ukraine, has said he is eager to testify before Congress and tell his side of the story. Indicted on campaign finance charges last year, he has been providing documents and messages to impeachment investigators.

Meanwhile, thousands of pages of Ukraine-related documents are slowly emerging in response to Freedom of Information Act lawsuits filed by watchdog groups. The Justice Department disclosed in a court filing last weekend that it has 24 emails related to Ukraine that it has not produced.

Rep. Eliot Engel, the House Foreign Affairs chairman, said the Ukraine story "is definitely not over." His committee was one of several that worked on the impeachment inquiry.

"I can tell you we're not going to let the issue drop," Engel said. "I think there are a lot of unanswered questions that the American public deserves to know."

Connecticut Rep. Jim Himes, a member of the intelligence panel, said the House will need to be "more vigorous than ever for abuses of power" as Trump is likely to be emboldened by his acquittal. "Even if the president continues his obstruction, the facts will come out," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell acknowledged in the minutes after the vote that "the investigations will go on," adding "that's sort of what Congress does." But Republicans said it's time for Congress to move on.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and one of Trump's fiercest GOP defenders, said the "the cloud over the presidency has been removed." But at the same time, he announced that his own committee would continue to investigate Hunter Biden, the son of former Vice President Joe Biden who was the target of Trump's Ukraine push.

The will-he-or-won't-he saga of Bolton's testimony has been running since October, when he was invited to testify voluntarily in the House's impeachment inquiry and declined to show up. Democrats opted against a subpoena as Bolton's attorney threatened time-consuming litigation.

In January, after the House voted to impeach Trump, Bolton made a surprise announcement that he would testify in the Senate trial if called. Since then, House Democrats have pushed off questions about whether they would try again.

Schiff said that Democrats would "canvas as a caucus and our leadership to discuss next steps" on Bolton. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., was less cautious, saying it was "likely" Bolton would be subpoenaed by the House.

If House Democrats do subpoena Bolton, it's unclear how he will respond. His lawyer, Chuck Cooper, did not immediately return an email message seeking comment Wednesday.

Beyond Ukraine, Democrats are expected to revive investigations that they were conducting before Congress in September was first alerted to Trump's overtures to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

They will likely continue their push to obtain Trump's taxes, look into his financial dealings and examine his most controversial policies, including child separation at the border. They are also expected to continue to push for legislation passed by the House that would attempt to combat foreign interference in elections, using Trump's efforts in Ukraine as a touchstone.

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"We're going to spend a lot of time focusing on election security," said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer in an interview with the AP on Wednesday. "It's clear that Trump would intervene in elections, and it's clear to many of us that he would not be chastened."

Democrats could also look for other ways to constrain the president. The House could try and curtail dollars for certain programs, and though the process is long, continue to fight for witnesses in court. Democrats sued former White House counsel Don McGahn last year after he refused to testify before the Judiciary panel on special counsel Robert Mueller's report, and that case is ongoing.

"In effect, he's said he's above the law. What guardrails are there?" asked Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn. "One is the power of the purse. Another is to continue to go to court."

Yet Democrats concede that defeating Trump in November is their shot at achieving what impeachment could not.

"This is a president who is now completely unleashed, and it's going to be very difficult to hold him accountable," said Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen. "Between now and then you are going to see a steady drip, drip of documents that will shed a light on the president's abuse of power."

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Alan Fram and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

## Biden reaches for 'Comeback Kid' mantle in New Hampshire

By HUNTER WOODALL Associated Press

SOMERSWORTH, N.H. (AP) — Joe Biden entered the Democratic presidential race as a favorite, the candidate with the longest resume, a network of establishment donors and a pitch that he could win the kind of voters who would defeat President Donald Trump.

Now, humbled by a disappointing showing in the Iowa caucuses, Biden is hoping for something quite different: that New Hampshire will make him the second coming of "the Comeback Kid."

New Hampshire is known for knocking down front-runners, usually with candidates carrying an insurgent torch, like Gary Hart in 1984, John McCain in 2000 and Bernie Sanders in 2016, instead of steadying a slipping candidate's fate. Hillary Clinton was an exception in 2008, but she lost the nomination to Barack Obama.

The former vice president made light of the Iowa results as he campaigned in New Hampshire on Tuesday. But he told voters in Somersworth on Wednesday that he wouldn't sugarcoat the impact of Iowa on his 2020 effort. He began to more aggressively criticize his rivals as he sought a reboot.

The campaign, he said, "took a gut punch," but it would be premature to write him off.

"I'm not going anywhere," Biden said. "And I'm counting on New Hampshire. We're going to come back."

His word had echoes of Bill Clinton in 1992, when he declared himself "the Comeback Kid" after finishing second to Democratic Sen. Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts.

Ned Helms, a former chairman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party who has endorsed Biden, was quick to evoke Clinton's stand after Biden made his latest plea to voters.

"He's saying, 'C'mon, New Hampshire. Let's play your role, and I'd really like your help,'" Helms said.

Biden has a number of hurdles in New Hampshire if he wants to make a comeback a reality.

His campaign event Wednesday was only his fifth in the state since the start of the year. Last month, Biden had the fewest New Hampshire events of any of the candidates regarded as being in the top four in the race, even as neighboring senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders juggled Iowa and the Senate impeachment trial.

The 77-year-old Biden also hasn't been making time in recent weeks for one of the traditions New Hampshire voters are most fond of: taking questions from the audience in town hall settings. In each of his campaign events in the state since the start of the year, Biden has instead opted for working a rope line and talking to voters after events.

Sanders has the largest publicly announced staff in New Hampshire and was boosted by raucous rallies in the state last month. Biden's campaign instead opted for smaller gatherings. Warren is also regarded as

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having a strong organization in New Hampshire, and she made key early investments in the state, while former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg is now primed to try to build off his success in Iowa.

Biden "didn't put the resources into this state, and so there's nothing like a firewall," Dante Scala, a political science professor at the University of New Hampshire.

Through the end of 2019, Biden's New Hampshire appearances were defined largely by his rehashing his time serving as vice president and criticizing President Donald Trump.

Wednesday was different, as Biden focused on the two rivals who appear to have the most momentum following Iowa. A Sanders nomination could have far-reaching down-ballot consequences, Biden warned, as candidates get stuck with Sanders' democratic socialist label. Nominating the 38-year-old Buttigieg, Biden said, is a risk.

"Well, I guess that's what you have to do at this point," said Cindy Lovejoy, a 62-year-old Biden supporter. "You have to point out what he thinks is wrong with their campaigns or their beliefs."

Biden also finds himself on shaky financial ground with less than a week until the New Hampshire primary. His campaign canceled a \$119,000 South Carolina ad buy, according to the firm Advertising Analytics. A super PAC founded by his allies has struggled to raise money and spent much of what it had on ads in Iowa. And his campaign held only about \$9 million in reserve at the end of 2019.

That suggests Biden could struggle to get his message out and communicate with voters in the contests that lie ahead at a time when his better-funded rivals will be bombarding the airwaves.

And an actual comeback in New Hampshire may mean winning over voters who admit liking Biden but have grown to have reservations about him as they've watched his 2020 campaign play out.

Wayne Dion, a 74-year-old undecided voter, said outside Biden's event in Nashua on Tuesday that the "Sleepy Joe" nickname Trump needles Biden with fits.

"I don't think he has the energy," Dion said. "I think he's lost it."

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Associated Press writer Brian Slodysko in Washington contributed to this report.

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

## Trump courts black voters, but opposition remains deep

By COREY WILLIAMS Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — President Donald Trump brought African American guests to his State of the Union speech, ran a Super Bowl ad boasting how he's making the criminal justice system more equitable for black people and portrayed himself as the champion of education and job opportunities for people of color.

The overtures mean nothing to black voters like Jovan Brown, who loathes Trump's record on race and sees the president's African American-heavy guest list at the State of the Union as his penchant for using "black people as a prop."

"I don't know too many black people who care for Donald Trump," said the 21-year-old Brown, who favors Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders. "I'm sure he has black friends, but he's not a supporter of our community."

Trump went out of his way to reach out to black voters during his speech Tuesday, touting several initiatives ahead of the November election. His guests included one of the last surviving Tuskegee airmen and his great-grandson, who dreams of traveling to space someday, and a black veteran who struggled with drug addiction and eventually put his life back together with a new job. Trump announced a scholarship for a black fourth grader from Philadelphia to highlight what he sees as failing public schools.

He trumpeted low black unemployment and poverty rates, his investments in historically black colleges and universities, and the impact of Opportunity Zones.

Critics have long suggested that the real audience for Trump's appeals to African Americans are white suburban women who may feel more comfortable voting for Trump if they see evidence that he's not really as racist as he has at times come across. But the campaign has long disputed that charge and is convinced

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that, if they can just reach black voters and share what Trump has done, including on the economy, at least some may be willing to give him a chance.

But recent polls paint a bleak picture for Trump with black voters.

A Washington Post-Ipsos poll of 1,088 African Americans showed that more than 8 in 10 say they believe Trump is a racist and has made racism a bigger problem in the country. Nine in 10 blacks disapprove of his job performance, overall.

A Pew Research Center analysis of people who participated in its polls and were confirmed to have voted showed Trump won just 6% of black voters in 2016.

Trump's public denouncement of former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick and other professional athletes who knelt during the national anthem in protest of police violence against African Americans did little to endear him to black voters. Neither did Trump's professions that there was "blame on both sides" following a 2017 clash between white nationalist demonstrators and counterprotesters in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The stakes are especially high in Detroit. The city is 80% African American and in a traditionally blue state, Michigan, that Trump won in 2016 by 10,704 votes. Trump won Wisconsin by fewer than 23,000 votes and Pennsylvania by about 44,000 votes, two other states that typically vote Democrat in national elections and where black turnout will be key.

Ninety-six percent of the city's registered voters cast ballots for Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016, but turnout was down in Detroit. It fell to 48% from 53% eight years earlier when Barack Obama won the presidency.

"People vote when they're passionate," said City Clerk Janice Winfrey. "People were passionate for Obama. And — maybe not for the same reason — they're passionate about Trump. And people are pretty mad."

Critics push back against Trump's claims of economic progress for the African American community and note that the wage gap between black and white workers remains high. "If we're talking about someone working two or three jobs and they don't have health care and don't have money to keep the lights on, those aren't quality jobs," said Rashawn Ray, a David M. Rubenstein Fellow in Governance Studies at the Washington-based Brookings Institution.

They are also frustrated by the racial climate under Trump, the toll of climate change on their neighborhoods and even Trump's past words and deeds before he became president.

Brown cites Trump's stance on the so-called Central Park Five in the 1980s, when five black and Latino teenagers were charged in the rape of a white jogger in New York's Central Park. That attack became a symbol of the city's soaring crime. Then-real estate developer Donald Trump took out full-page newspaper ads calling for the death penalty.

The teens said their confessions were coerced, and their convictions were overturned in 2002 after a convicted murderer and serial rapist confessed to the crime.

"He wanted 15-year-old boys murdered even though they were innocent," she said. "I don't think he's changed much."

But the notion that Trump is racist is a complete myth, said Osigah Kakaq, a 24-year-old black man from Charlotte, North Carolina.

"It's a Republican stereotype the Democrats use over and over again," Kakaq said. "It's Trump's turn now. Somebody has to earn your vote. No candidate or party can be entitled to your vote."

With the 2020 race expected to be razor close, the Trump campaign believes that even slim gains among black voters and other groups may be able to push him across the finish line. And the president has scattered support among some black voters, like 67-year-old Jeanine Brown of Phoenix.

She found his speech "uplifting" and listed his economic accomplishments, prison reform and opposition to abortion as areas of significance to African Americans. She's a conservative Christian who previously voted for John McCain and Mitt Romney because of their record on abortion.

"It's not about Trump. It's about the policies," she said. "I'm a Christian. I don't think we should be killing babies. I don't believe in same-sex marriage."

Trump or no Trump, 19-year-old Bryan Lovejoy of Detroit says he's not interested in voting in the presi-

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dential election come November. He believes Trump is on the "business side of people," but that's still not enough to get him to the polls.

"I'm not political," he said. "I don't really believe in all of the hype and the government."

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

## Kirk Douglas rose from poverty to become a king of Hollywood

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — He was born Issur Danielovitch, a ragman's son. He died Kirk Douglas, a Hollywood king.

Douglas, the muscular, tempestuous actor with the dimpled chin, lived out an epic American story of reinvention and perseverance, from the riches he acquired and risked to the parts he took on and the boundaries he defied. Among the most popular, versatile and recognizable leading men of the 20th century, he could will himself into a role or a favorite cause as mightily as he willed himself out of poverty.

Douglas, who died Wednesday at 103, was a force for change and symbol of endurance. He is remembered now as a final link to a so-called "Golden Age," the father of Oscar winner Michael Douglas and a man nearly as old as the industry itself. But in his prime, he represented a new kind of performer, more independent and adventurous than Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy and other greats of the studio era of the 1930s and 1940s, and more willing to speak his mind.

His career began at the peak of the studios' power and ended in a more diverse, decentralized age that he helped bring about.

Reaching stardom after World War II, he was as likely to play cads (the movie producer in "Bad and the Beautiful," the journalist in "Ace in the Hole") as he was suited for the hero-slave in "Spartacus," as alert to the business as he was at home before the camera. He was producing his own films at a time most movie stars were content to act and was working with an enviable range of directors, from a young Stanley Kubrick to a middle-aged John Huston, from a genius of noir like Jacques Tourneur to such master satirists as Billy Wilder and Joseph L. Mankiewicz.

Acting served as escape and as confession. His favorite among dozens of films was the contemporary Western "Lonely are the Brave," which came out in 1962 and included a line of dialogue Douglas called the most personal he ever spoke: "I'm a loner clear down deep to my very guts."

He never won a competitive Oscar, but he received an honorary one, along with a lifetime achievement award from the American Film Institute, an honorary Golden Globe and a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

His standing came in part from his role in the downfall of Hollywood's blacklist, which halted and ruined the careers of writers suspected of pro-Communist activity or sympathies.

By the end of the 1950s, the use of banned writers was widely known within the industry, but not to the general public. Douglas, who years earlier had reluctantly signed a loyalty oath to get the starring role in "Lust for Life," delivered a crucial blow when he openly credited the blacklisted Oscar winner Dalton Trumbo for script work on "Spartacus," the Roman epic about a slave rebellion that was released in 1960. (A few months before, Otto Preminger had announced Trumbo's name would appear on the credits for "Exodus," but "Spartacus" came out first.)

"Everybody advised me not to do it because you won't be able to work in this town again and all of that. But I was young enough to say to hell with it," Douglas, criticized at times for taking undue credit for bringing down the blacklist, said about "Spartacus" in a 2011 interview with The Associated Press. "I think if I was much older, I would have been too conservative: 'Why should I stick my neck out?'"

The most famous words in a Douglas movie were said about him, not by him, in "Spartacus." Roman officials tell a gathering of slaves their lives will be spared if they identify their leader. As Douglas rises, a growing chorus of slaves jump up and shout, "I'm Spartacus!" Douglas stands silently, a tear rolling down his face.

Life was not a role to be underplayed. His outbursts frightened co-workers and family members alike.

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He was compulsive about preparing for movies and a supreme sufferer on camera, whether stabbed by scissors in Wilder's "Ace in the Hole" or crucified in "Spartacus."

Critic David Thomson dubbed Douglas "the manic-depressive among Hollywood stars, one minute bearing down on plot, dialogue and actresses with the gleeful appetite of a man just freed from Siberia, at other times writhing not just in agony but mutilation and a convincingly horrible death."

While filming "Lust for Life," he was so caught up in Vincent van Gogh he feared becoming suicidal himself.

Douglas recounted in his memoir that John Wayne yelled at him for playing "a part like that."

"We got to play strong, tough characters. Not those weak queers," Wayne said.

Responded Douglas: "Hey, John, I'm an actor. I like to play interesting roles. It's all make-believe, John. It isn't real. You're not really John Wayne, you know."

Issur Danielovitch was born in 1916 to an impoverished Jewish family in Amsterdam, New York. His name evolved over time. He called himself Isidore Demsky until he graduated from St. Lawrence University. He took the name Kirk Douglas as he worked his way through the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, choosing "Douglas" because he wanted his last name still to begin with "D" and "Kirk" because he liked the hard, jagged sound of the "K."

Douglas was a performer as early as kindergarten, when he recited a poem about the red robin of spring. He was a star in high school, and in college he wrestled and built the physique that was showcased in many of his movies. He was determined, hitchhiking to St. Lawrence and convincing the dean to approve a student loan. And he was tough. One of his strongest childhood memories was of flinging a spoonful of hot tea into the face of his intimidating father.

"I have never done anything as brave in any movie," he later wrote.

Beginning in 1941, Douglas won a series of small roles on Broadway, served briefly in the Navy and received a key Hollywood break when an old friend from New York, Lauren Bacall, recommended he play opposite Barbara Stanwyck in "The Strange Love of Martha Ivers."

He gained further attention as a tough guy in the classic 1947 film noir "Out of the Past," although a more typical role was as a school teacher in Mankiewicz's Oscar-winning "A Letter to Three Wives." His real breakthrough came as an unscrupulous boxer in 1949's "Champion," a low-budget film produced by a then-little known Stanley Kramer that his agents disparaged.

"With dire warnings about my career and my future, they gave up on me, writing me off as just another crazy New York actor who didn't know what he was doing," Douglas recalled in his memoir "The Ragman's Son," published in 1988.

He had long desired creative control and "Champion" was followed by a run of successes that gave him the clout to form Bryna Productions (named after his mother) in 1955, and a second company later. Many of his movies, such as Kubrick's "Paths of Glory," "The Vikings," "Spartacus" and "Seven Days in May," were produced by his companies. Other highlights included the acclaimed crime drama "Detective Story" and the Oscar-winning adaptation of Jules Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea."

Douglas very much lived like a movie star, or even a king, in the pre-#MeToo era. Marriage and other commitments didn't keep him from being romantically linked with many of his female co-stars, among them Gene Tierney, Patricia Neal and Marlene Dietrich. He would recall playing Ann Sothorn's husband in "A Letter to Three Wives" and how he and the actress "rehearsed the relationship offstage."

Speaking to The Associated Press about Douglas in December 2016, less than a year before the #MeToo movement caught on, the actress and dancer Neile Adams lightheartedly said of her friend, "You could not sit beside him without his hand crawling up your leg."

His first marriage, to Diana Dill, ended in 1951. Three years later, he married Anne Buydens, whom he met in Paris while he was filming "Act of Love" (and eagerly pursuing a young Italian actress) and she was a publicist.

He would later owe his very life to Anne, to whom he was married more than 60 years despite acknowledged tension over his infidelities.

In 1958, the film producer Michael Todd, then the husband of Elizabeth Taylor, offered the actor a ride



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on his private jet. Douglas' wife insisted that he not go, worrying about a private plane, and he eventually gave in. The plane crashed, killing all on board.

Douglas had two children with each of his wives and all went into show business, against their father's advice. Besides Michael, they are Joel and Peter, both producers, and Eric, an actor with several film credits who died of a drug overdose in 2004.

Later generations came to know Michael well. Michael Douglas not only thrived in Hollywood, but beat his dad to the Oscars with a project his father had first desired. Kirk Douglas tried for years to make a film out of Ken Kesey's cult novel "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." In the 1970s, he gave up and let Michael have a try.

The younger Douglas produced a classic that starred Jack Nicholson as rebel Randle Patrick McMurphy (the role Kirk Douglas wanted to play) and dominated the Oscars, winning for best picture, director, actor, actress and screenplay.

"My father has played up his disappointment with that pretty good," Michael Douglas later told Vanity Fair. "I have to remind him, I shared part of my producing back-end (credit) with him, so he ended up making more money off that movie than he had in any other picture."

"And I would gladly give back every cent, if I could have played that role," the elder Douglas replied.

When his movie career faded, Douglas turned to other media. In the 1970s and 1980s, he did several notable television films, including "Victory at Entebbe" and "Amos." His film credits in the '70s and '80s included De Palma's "The Fury" and a comedy, "Tough Guys," that co-starred Burt Lancaster, his longtime friend who previously appeared with Douglas in "Seven Days in May," "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral" and other movies.

A stroke in 1996 seemed to end his film career, but Douglas returned three years later with "Diamonds," which he made after struggling to overcome speech problems.

"I thought I would never make another movie unless silent movies came back," he joked.

He would say he became more reflective in his 70s, especially after a 1991 helicopter crash that killed two other passengers, and began a prolific writing career. His books included "The Ragman's Son," the novels "Dance With the Devil" and "The Gift" and a short work on the making of "Spartacus."

Douglas also was one of Hollywood's leading philanthropists. The Douglas Foundation, which he and Anne Douglas co-founded, has donated millions to a wide range of institutions, from the Children's Hospital Los Angeles to the Motion Picture & Television Fund. In 2015, the foundation endowed the Kirk Douglas Fellowship — a full-tuition, 2-year scholarship — at the American Film Institute.

In 2003, Douglas teamed with son Michael; Cameron Douglas, Michael's 24-year-old son; and ex-wife Diana Douglas, Michael's mother, for "It Runs in the Family," a comic drama with a few digs worked in about the elder Douglas' parenting.

In March 2009, he appeared in a one-man show, "Before I Forget," recounting his life and famous friends. The four-night show in the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City was sold out.

"You know, I never wanted to be a movie actor," Douglas told the AP in 2009. "My goal in life was to be a star on the stage. Now I know how to do it. Build your own theater."

## Disconnect? Stocks rise despite fears over virus from China

By STAN CHOE, CARLA K. JOHNSON and MARIA CHENG Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The virus outbreak out of China has exposed a seeming disconnect between the financial markets and science.

Health experts don't know how far the virus will spread and how bad the crisis will get, yet stocks are rallying as if investors are expecting no more than a modest hit to the global economy.

On Wall Street, the S&P 500 erased all its losses from the past few weeks and hit a record on Wednesday, while markets in Japan and Hong Kong, closer to the center of the crisis, rose as well. The gains came even as the number of people infected globally surged to more than 28,000 and the death toll climbed to 563, with the overwhelming majority of cases in China.

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Investors aren't pretending to know any more than the scientists. But after an initial, mini-freakout over worries about a big blow to China, the world's second-largest economy with 1.4 billion people, and the potential ripple effects, investors are taking into account better-than-expected earnings from some of the globe's biggest companies and other encouraging economic indicators from outside China.

Perhaps most important, investors are looking at more than just the public health measures that are being taken against the virus; they are taking into account the financial tools available to counter the economic damage.

They are hoping that even if the virus spreads further, central banks can once again come to the rescue and prop up the global economy by cutting interest rates and offering other stimulus, much as they have done since the 2008 financial crisis. Early this week, in fact, China's central bank announced plans to pump \$173 billion into the economy to help calm markets.

"We listen to health care experts," said Nate Thooft, global head of asset allocation at Manulife Asset Management. "We are reading research from epidemiologists. But as with anything with the market, there's a level of faith and hope and underlying sentiment that keeps people in the market. People are still willing to hang onto equities because they haven't been scared enough."

Such faith perhaps shouldn't come as a surprise. The U.S. stock market has been running higher since the spring of 2009, its longest bull run on record, and has repeatedly beaten back worries about impending recessions, global trade wars and the threat of real war — for example, after the U.S. drone strike last month that killed a top Iranian general.

"Everybody knows that it's going to have an impact on the global economy and specifically China," said Scott Ladner, chief investment officer for Horizon Investments. "It's not that there's going to be zero impact. It's that we don't think the impact is going to be long-lasting or so severe that there can't be governmental policies to help blunt the impact."

While stock analysts might feel confident that the economic impact can be contained, public health experts don't know yet what course the outbreak will take. In fact, they are still trying to answer basic questions about the virus, including just how easily it spreads and how deadly it is.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization, said Wednesday that there is still a "window of opportunity" to contain the outbreak and that the U.N. agency is focusing its efforts on helping Chinese authorities stem the spread of the virus from the city of Wuhan, where it first emerged over a month ago.

At the same time, Tedros said that in the preceding 24 hours, the WHO had seen the biggest jump in cases since the start of the epidemic.

U.S. health officials said it would be premature to comment on when the outbreak might peak or whether strategies to contain it are working.

"We're preparing as if this is a pandemic," said Dr. Nancy Messonnier of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A pandemic is defined as outbreaks of a disease on at least two continents.

Researchers around the world are scrambling to develop a vaccine for the virus, which is a member of the coronavirus family and a close cousin to the SARS and MERS viruses that have caused outbreaks in the past. But even if testing and manufacturing go perfectly, it may take at least a year before one is ready for widespread use. Similarly, it is too early to tell if some promising potential treatments work any better than standard ones.

In other developments Wednesday:

— The WHO asked for \$675 million to help countries deal with the expected spread of the virus. Tedros acknowledged that is a lot, but "it's much less than the bill we will face if we do not invest in preparedness now."

— Two planes carrying about 350 Americans evacuated from Wuhan landed in California. They will be quarantined for 14 days at two military bases.

— Nearly 3,700 people face a two-week quarantine in their cabins on a cruise ship in the port city of Yokohama, Japan, while in Hong Kong, more than 3,600 people on another ship awaited screening after

it was banned by Taiwan.

— As thousands of hospital workers in Hong Kong went on strike for a third day to demand the border with mainland China be closed completely, the city announced that all people entering from the mainland, including Hong Kong residents, must be quarantined for 14 days.

Johnson reported from Seattle, Cheng from London. Associated Press business writer Alex Veiga in Los Angeles also contributed .

## **Romney impeachment vote heartens some, angers others in Utah**

**By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press**

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Even though Mitt Romney's status as one of few Republicans willing to publicly criticize President Donald Trump is well known in his adopted home state, his unequivocal speech before voting yes on impeachment Wednesday caught many in Utah by surprise.

Republicans in the state are unusually divided on the president, so while some were heartened to see Romney cast what he described as an agonizing vote dictated by his conscience, Trump supporters were left angry and frustrated.

Still, with four years to go before any re-election campaign, Romney has a long time to explain his vote to an electorate with a deep well of goodwill that gives him a celebrity-like status.

"There will be ramifications," said Jason Perry, director of the University of Utah's Hinckley Institute of Politics. But "people do ultimately care about what he says, even if they don't agree with him."

Romney appeared emotional during his speech on the Senate floor. He told reporters that he'd been waking up in the early-morning hours as his mind churned over what to do, and cited a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints hymn about doing the right thing despite the consequences.

Romney's key role in saving the troubled 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City paired with his status as the first major-party presidential candidate from the state's predominant faith widely known as the Mormon church has made him well-known and liked in the state where he moved after his failed 2012 presidential run.

Many Utah voters share Romney's wariness about Trump. A nationwide Associated Press survey of midterm voters in 2018 found that while two-thirds of church members voted Republican, just over half approved of Trump's job performance. The VoteCast survey also found that 64% of Utah voters wanted to see the senator confront the president.

Romney and Trump have an on-again-off-again history, with Trump once calling for the senator to be impeached. There's no provision in the U.S. Constitution for that. While one Utah lawmaker has recently introduced a bill that would create a path to recall a senator, it's unclear if there would be a serious push for it to be used on Romney, even after he became the lone Republican to vote for Trump's removal from office.

State leaders who have applauded Trump on issues like public lands lambasted Romney's invocation of morality, while voters who appreciated his campaign promise to occasionally stand up to the president cheered the more strident message.

Shelly Cluff, a 33-year-old stay-at-home mother in suburban Riverton, is a Republican who's never been a fan of Trump. She was pleasantly surprised at Romney's stance.

"I was greatly impressed by his integrity, his willingness to put so much on the line in order not to violate his conscience, in order to stand with a clear conscience before God," Cluff said.

Still, she knows that not all her neighbors feel the same, including several who didn't vote for him in 2016 but have since come around.

"I've been taken aback by how many people have been really upset and disappointed in Mitt Romney," she said.

Count among those voters like Ray Clark, a 71-year-old electrical contractor in rural Kanab. He said he's "furious" about Romney's vote, and chalks it up to the senator's personal dislike of the president.

Still, he's not sure if Romney will ultimately suffer any true political consequences in Utah.

"Right now, I'd say he doesn't stand a chance. Four years from now, who knows?" he said.

## Top heavy: Handful of elite programs hoard most top recruits

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

McKinnley Jackson, a huge and talented defensive tackle from Mississippi, was one of the few five-star recruits whose college choice was a mystery coming into signing day.

"I'll keep this short, simple and sweet," Jackson said during a news conference Wednesday at George County High School in Lucedale, Mississippi. "For the next three to four years, I'll be attending Texas A&M."

The five-star prospect picked the Aggies over Alabama and LSU, allowing one more school to break into a small group that landed the majority of the top available players. Signing day is typically about the rich getting richer, and this year the best classes were especially top heavy.

According to 247 Sports' composite rankings, there were 31 five-star prospects in this year's class. Six schools signed 22 of those players. Clemson led the way with five as part of the highest-rated class coach Dabo Swinney has ever signed. Alabama and Georgia each landed four five-star players. National champion LSU, Ohio State and Oregon each had three.

For the second time in three seasons, 247 Sports crowned Georgia the recruiting champion, with Alabama and Clemson close behind.

Looking at the top 100 players rated by 247 and again a handful of schools cleaned up. Georgia (11), Alabama (10), Clemson (10), LSU (9) and Ohio State (7) signed 47 of them.

By landing Jackson, Texas A&M became the sixth school with more than four top 100 players in its new freshman class. The Aggies came away with six, which means 53% of the top 100 players signed with just six schools.

Last year, seven schools signed at least five of the top 100 for a total of 48 players. Five more schools landed four top-100s.

In 2018, eight schools had at least five top-100 signees and five schools (Georgia, Ohio State, LSU, Clemson and Texas) signed 46 of those players. That year, 12 of the 29 five-stars signed with either Georgia (7) or Clemson (5).

### DONE DEAL?

Is five-star defensive end Jordan Burch heading to his hometown school?

Burch committed to South Carolina during the early signing period, but never actually signed a national letter of intent with the Gamecocks and he took a late visit to LSU.

At a signing day ceremony Wednesday at Hammon School in Columbia, South Carolina, Burch had only a Gamecocks hat. South Carolina coach Will Muschamp, whose son plays on the same high school team with Burch, was sitting just a few feet away.

Burch never made an announcement nor did any interviews, simply saying: "For the next three or four years I'll be with my friends."

When South Carolina posted a list of 21 signees a few hours later, Burch's name was not among them. The signing period ends April 1.

### FLIPS

It's been three years since the early signing period in December was implemented in college football, and it is clear the February frenzy is gone for good.

"Today used to be the craziest day on the face of the earth," Florida coach Dan Mullen told reporters.

Signing day surprises are now rare as most teams have their classes complete or close to it in December. Ohio State, for example, signed one player Wednesday to complete its class.

Two of the few decisions that could be called surprises involved Florida schools.

Four-star safety Avantae Williams from Deland, Florida, signed with Miami instead of the University of Florida. And Florida State lost out on four-star receiver Malachi Wideman, who flipped from a longtime verbal commitment and signed with Tennessee.

Oregon finished off the top class in the Pac-12 by flipping 340-pound defensive tackle Jayson Jones from

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Caldera, Alabama. The four-star player had been a verbal commit to the Crimson Tide, but Oregon head coach Mario Cristobal, a former Alabama assistant, was able to lure him to Eugene.

## FAMILY TIES

New FAU coach Willie Taggart once said when asked whether his son, quarterback Willie Taggart Jr., would play for him in college: "Only if I need him."

Taggart Jr., a three-star prospect, signed with the Owls on Wednesday.

Virginia coach Bronco Mendenhall's son, wide receiver Breaker Mendenhall, decided to go to school close to his roots. The younger Mendenhall signed with Utah State. Bronco Mendenhall is a Utah native and was coach at BYU for more than a decade before taking over at UVA in 2017.

Memphis is getting another Gainwell. Running back Kory Gainwell from Yazoo County High School in Mississippi signed with the Tigers to play with his brother, Kenneth, who was one of the leading rushers in the nation as a redshirt freshman last season.

Follow Ralph D. Russo at <https://twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP> and <https://appodcasts.com/category/ap-top-25-college-football/>

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## Weinstein accuser says he trapped her during hotel assault

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and TOM HAYS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As Harvey Weinstein stripped off his clothes, pulled down her dress and groped her breast in a hotel bathroom in 2013, Lauren Marie Young says he also offered a chilling excuse for his lewd behavior: "This is what all actresses do to make it."

Young's account of her encounter with then-one of Hollywood's most powerful movie makers came on Wednesday after she was called to the witness stand at Weinstein's New York City rape trial in a final push by prosecutors to show there was a pattern to how he preyed on women.

Weinstein persisted by masturbating, despite her telling him, "No, no, no' the whole time," Young told jurors as the the last of six women to testify at the trial about alleged series of sexual assaults by the defendant.

The criminal charges are based on two allegations: that he raped a woman in March 2013 and forced oral sex on a TV and film production assistant in 2006.

Additional women, including Young, have been allowed to testify as prosecutors attempt to show there was a practiced method to Weinstein's attacks, including inviting women to his hotel room to discuss business, then disrobing and demanding sexual favors.

Weinstein, 67, has insisted any sexual encounters were consensual.

Young began her testimony by describing how she put on her favorite dress before heading off to a meeting with Weinstein where she expected to "network and pitch my ideas."

After he invited her up to his Beverly Hills hotel room, Weinstein lured her into the bathroom while a friend of his who helped arrange the meeting, Mexican model Claudia Salinas, closed the door behind them, she said.

The witness testified that after Weinstein was nude, he kept her from escaping by pushing her against the sink and blocking her way to the door.

"I felt so trapped and I was in shock," she told jurors, fighting back tears. She said she pleaded with Weinstein not to hurt her before he finally stepped out of the bathroom.

She pulled up her dress and walked out to find Salinas still "standing right there," she said. "I shot her an evil look and I left as quick as I could without saying anything."

On cross-examination, defense attorney Damon Cheronis questioned Young about her admission that she was initially confused about when the alleged assault occurred and her description of the lumbering

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Weinstein so quickly taking advantage of her. His voice rising, Cheronis asked, "And then this big, fat man does a ninja tear off of his clothes, right?"

Cheronis also seized on some inconsistencies in Young's courtroom testimony compared to her previous statements to investigators. For example, on the witness stand, she said Weinstein grazed her genitals, but in 2018 she told a Beverly Hills police detective, "I don't think he touched me down there."

The witness was to return to the stand Thursday with the prosecution case nearly complete.

Young's allegations involving the hotel encounter in California are partly the basis of criminal charges filed by the Los Angeles County District Attorney on Jan. 6, just as Weinstein's New York trial was getting underway. Weinstein is also charged in that case with raping a different woman the night before the alleged assault on Young.

The Associated Press typically does not publish the names of people alleging sexual assault unless they give their consent, as Young has done through her lawyer.

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, possibly to try to corroborate claims by another accuser he's charged with raping that she noticed "extreme scarring" on his body.

On Wednesday, jurors were shown a drawing Young made for investigators of Weinstein's naked body and she testified that she recalled a scar that "was not a normal looking scar from a circumcision."

Messages were left Wednesday with Salinas and her manager.

Earlier Wednesday, jurors heard from a former front desk manager who checked Weinstein into a midtown Manhattan hotel where he is alleged to have raped a different woman in March 2013. The testimony was meant to corroborate the woman's claim that Weinstein bullied his way into the hotel over her objections.

"Usually, couples checking in are in a happy mood," Rothschild Capulong told the jury, adding he was so concerned about Weinstein's behavior that he made a note in his end-of-shift report that security might want to check on his room.

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

## Madoff seeks prison release, citing terminal kidney failure

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Epic Ponzi schemer Bernard Madoff asked a federal judge Wednesday to grant him a "compassionate release" from his 150-year prison sentence, saying he has terminal kidney failure and less than 18 months to live.

Madoff's attorney filed court papers saying the 81-year-old has end-stage kidney disease and other "chronic, serious medical conditions," including hypertension and cardiovascular disease.

"There's no cure for my type of disease," Madoff told The Washington Post in a phone interview, expressing remorse for orchestrating the largest Ponzi scheme in history.

After spending more than a decade behind bars, Madoff said his dying wish is to salvage his relationships with his grandchildren.

"I've served 11 years already," he said, "and, quite frankly, I've suffered through it."

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan declined to comment. Prosecutors are expected to file a motion in response to the request in the coming days.

Madoff pleaded guilty in 2009 to 11 federal counts in a fraudulent investment scheme involving billions of dollars, admitting he swindled thousands of clients over decades. The rich and famous were among his victims, as well as people of lesser means who had invested with him unknowingly through feeder funds.

The new court filings say Madoff was admitted in July to the palliative care unit of the federal prison in Butner, North Carolina.

"Madoff's health has and will continue to deteriorate, and he will require more assistance physically and medically leading up to his death," attorney Brandon Sample wrote.

A so-called compassionate release would allow Madoff to "receive end-of-life care in the community,

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which would be more efficient, timely, and less burdensome" on the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, Sample wrote.

The Bureau of Prisons denied Madoff's request for release in December, according to court papers, saying it would "minimize the severity of his offense." The agency lists Madoff's release date as Nov. 14, 2139.

Madoff's motion mentions Scotland's controversial release of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, who was convicted in 2001 of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988, killing 270 people. Al-Megrahi was freed in 2009 on compassionate grounds and died of cancer in 2012, still protesting his innocence.

The motion also cites the more recent case of Bernard Ebbers, a 78-year-old executive sentenced to 25 years in prison in one of the largest corporate accounting scandals in U.S. history.

A federal judge in Manhattan ordered the former WorldCom chief released due to his deteriorating health, saying he posed no risk to society.

## **FBI director warns of ongoing Russian 'information warfare'**

**By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director Chris Wray said Wednesday that Russia is engaged in "information warfare" heading into the 2020 presidential election, though he said law enforcement has not seen ongoing efforts by Russia to target America's election infrastructure.

Wray told the House Judiciary Committee that Russia, just as it did in 2016, is relying on a covert social media campaign aimed at dividing American public opinion and sowing discord. That effort, which involves fictional personas, bots, social media postings and disinformation, may have an election-year uptick but is also a round-the-clock threat that is in some ways harder to combat than an election system hack, Wray said.

"Unlike a cyberattack on an election infrastructure, that kind of effort — disinformation — in a world where we have a First Amendment and believe strongly in freedom of expression, the FBI is not going to be in the business of being the truth police and monitoring disinformation online," Wray said.

The FBI and Department of Homeland Security are on alert for election-related cyberactivity like what occurred in 2016, when Russians hacked emails belonging to the Democratic campaign of nominee Hillary Clinton and probed local election systems for vulnerabilities.

But, Wray said Wednesday, "I don't think we've seen any ongoing efforts to target election infrastructure like we did in 2016."

His appearance came two days after Democratic presidential caucuses in Iowa were marred by a malfunctioning app that caused a delay in the reporting of results. Though local and federal officials have stressed that the problems weren't caused by a foreign intrusion, the error played into existing unease surrounding election security and risked amplifying concerns among American about the integrity of the voting process.

Even without signs of election system targeting, Wray said Russian efforts to interfere in the election through disinformation had not tapered off since 2016. He said social media had injected "steroids" into those efforts.

"They identify an issue that they know that the American people feel passionately about on both sides and then they take both sides and spin them up so they pit us against each other," Wray said. "And then they combine that with an effort to weaken our confidence in our elections and our democratic institutions, which has been a pernicious and asymmetric way of engaging in ... information warfare."

At another point in the hearing, Wray avoided a direct answer when asked if President Donald Trump, Attorney General William Barr or other administration officials had asked him for investigations into Trump Democratic rival Joe Biden, his son Hunter, or into any members of Congress.

The question was posed by Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York, the committee chairman and one of seven House Democratic managers of the impeachment case. He asked whether Trump had requested FBI investigations into the Bidens, lawmakers or former national security adviser John Bolton — who is due out with a book next month said to undercut a key Trump defense — as possible payback for impeachment.

Wray initially said: "I have assured the Congress, and I can assure the Congress today, that the FBI will only open investigations based on the facts, and the law and proper predication."

After Nadler said he assumed that answer meant that neither Trump nor Barr nor other administration officials had requested improper political investigations, Wray tried again: "No one has asked me to open an investigation based on anything other than facts, the law and proper predication."

Trump has sought, without evidence, to implicate the Bidens in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father, as vice president, was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Ukraine. Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advocates, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either Biden.

Wray's appearance was his first since a Justice Department inspector general report that sharply criticized the FBI's surveillance of former Trump campaign aide national security Carter Page. The errors produced rare bipartisan calls for changes to the federal government's surveillance powers.

The report identified what it said were significant errors in applications to eavesdrop on Page, including omitting critical information that cut against the FBI's original premise that Page was a Russian agent — something he has repeatedly denied.

After the report was issued, Wray told The Associated Press that the mistakes were "unacceptable and unrepresentative of who we are as an institution." He repeated that message to lawmakers Wednesday.

The then-chief judge of the secretive Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which authorizes wire-tapping of subjects on American soil in national security investigations, responded to the report with an extraordinary public rebuke of the FBI and demanded that the bureau report back on what it was doing to fix the problems.

The FBI has laid out a series of changes designed to ensure warrant applications are more closely scrutinized before being submitted for a judge's approval and that they contain accurate information about the reliability and potential bias of sources whom agents rely on. The Justice Department has also said the surveillance of Page should have ended before it did.

Wray bristled at the suggestion from some Republican lawmakers that he did not take the report's criticism seriously enough.

"I've been a prosecutor. I've been a defense attorney, I've been an assistant attorney general, I've been an FBI director," Wray said. "To me, candor to the court is sacrosanct, and I don't think there's anybody in the FBI who's belaboring under the misimpression that I think it's OK to mislead a court."

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

## Impeachment done, Pelosi unburdens herself about Trump

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump was gone, the House lights were dimming, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi looked up to her friends and family in the gallery overhead. She held up the speech she had shredded behind Trump's back, on live television. She put her hand to her heart, dipped her head and gave a little bow.

The moment showcased Pelosi's sharper, less-restrained approach to the nation's 45th president at the bitter end of the impeachment saga she led. Now, she's leading House Democrats out of impeachment's shadow, through regular legislative business and toward Election Day in November. And though there's no sign Pelosi herself is exiting the political stage, there's abundant evidence that she's unburdening herself of any lingering restraint when it comes to Trump.

And that's saying something, considering her unapologetic style when it comes to him. She smirked and clapped, eye-to-eye with him at last year's State of the Union. In private, she questioned the president's manhood. And she stalked out of a White House meeting with him in October, bluntly suggesting the president is controlled by his counterpart in Russia.



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But her speech-shredding on Tuesday night appeared to mark a pointier, post-impeachment phase, one Trump's reelection campaign quickly sought to monetize.

"Wow. Nancy ripped my speech. She truly hates America," said a text Wednesday as part of an effort to raise \$2 million in 24 hours.

As furious Republicans piled on the condemnation, Pelosi brandished the ripped paper in full view of reporters and repeated in the hallways that she "tore it up."

"I felt very liberated last night," Pelosi told House Democrats in their private caucus meeting Wednesday, according to a Democratic aide in the room, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the remarks. She said she viewed Trump's remarks as "a pack of lies" on everything from health care to Medicare and Medicaid.

"We saw the president of the United States shred the truth right in front of us," she said. "My friends, we just have to declare it."

That's what Pelosi said she was doing during Trump's address to the nation, in which he extolled a "great American comeback" and drew on falsehoods about U.S. energy supremacy, health care and the economy. Trump was speaking from a place of strength, with the Republican Party mostly solidly behind him, on the brink of his Senate acquittal Wednesday.

For Pelosi and the Democrats, the address was a much more glum event. The party had a political hang-over from the debacle Monday night in Iowa, whose kickoff caucuses ended in delays, fury and mockery from Republicans. The House's impeachment of Trump, with its huge political risks for majority Democrats, was about to be dispatched by the Republican-led Senate. They booed and groaned, but more often, just sat still as Trump spoke.

Trump's speech Tuesday night on Pelosi's turf was the first time the two had been in the same room since Pelosi stalked out of the White House meeting in October. It was book ended by competing snubs: Trump appeared to ignore Pelosi's outstretched hand when he arrived on the podium. She gave a look to her caucus, with a wide grin.

Trump again kept his back mostly turned to her when he finished. Inches behind him, Pelosi gathered the speech's pages and ripped them — once, twice, three times and a fourth — as he left the chamber. That's when she held up the navy blue folio with gold letters that contained what remained of the address.

In fact, Pelosi has been freer with her thoughts on Trump and the Republicans for awhile. She was notably less restrained during a Jan. 15 floor speech on the day the House sent the two articles of impeachment to the Senate for trial.

She began by addressing Rep. Doug Collins, a Georgia Republican who had said Democrats are "in love with terrorists" and then apologized for his remark.

"I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Georgia for his apology for his ridiculous remarks about me and House Democrats," Pelosi said, looking at Collins.

Then she took aim at Trump's July 25 phone call that forms the cornerstone of his impeachment case. During the conversation, Trump asked the president of Ukraine to do the "favor" of investigating former Vice President Joe Biden and his son. Pelosi likened Trump's style to that of the mobsters in "The Irishman" movie.

Then she took a slap at Republicans who had complained that she'd led a rush to impeachment and then slowed down the process by refusing for a month to send the articles to the Senate.

"Don't talk to me about my timing," she said, glaring at them from the well of the House. "For a long time, I resisted the calls from across the country for impeachment," she said. "I held back."

That changed with the revelations about Trump's political pressure on Ukraine. The House passed the articles nearly by party line on Dec. 18.

By Wednesday, Republicans were predicting the Democrats would pay a political price for Pelosi's conduct, which they suggested was a stunt.

"I think it was a new low," Vice President Mike Pence said Wednesday on "Fox & Friends." He accused Pelosi of trying to make the evening "about her and I think the American people see through it."

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The Senate cleared Trump on Wednesday mostly along party lines. House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy tweeted a video of himself ripping a piece of paper and saying, "Acquitted for life."

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

## Oscar Predictions: Can 'Parasite' upset '1917'?

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ahead of Sunday's 92nd Academy Awards, Associated Press Film Writer Jake Coyle shares his predictions for a ceremony with a lot of locks but the potential for a few surprises.

### BEST PICTURE

The Nominees: "Ford v Ferrari," "The Irishman," "Jojo Rabbit," "Joker," "Little Women," "Marriage Story," "1917," "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," "Parasite"

Will Win: "Parasite"

Should Win: "Parasite"

Should Have Been a Contender: "The Last Black Man in San Francisco"

The last-arriving contender, Sam Mendes' World War I film "1917," has seemingly, fittingly run away with it. The top-prize winner of the Producers Guild, the Directors Guild and the BAFTAs, "1917" is the clear favorite. But I think Bong Joon Ho's universally beloved "Parasite" could pull off an upset that would rank alongside the underdog win of "Moonlight" three years ago. Taking best ensemble from the Screen Actors Guild showed that "Parasite" has perhaps the most important vote in the actors (they make up the largest percentage of the film academy), and academy membership has also grown more international in recent years. The time may be right for the first foreign-language film to win best picture, and "Parasite" deserves it.

### BEST ACTRESS

The Nominees: Cynthia Erivo, "Harriet"; Scarlett Johansson, "Marriage Story"; Saoirse Ronan, "Little Women"; Charlize Theron, "Bombshell"; Renee Zellweger, "Judy"

Will Win: Renee Zellweger

Should Win: Saoirse Ronan

Should Have Been a Contender: Alfre Woodard, "Clemency"

Zellweger is already a winner for "Cold Mountain" in 2004. But her fragile yet powerhouse performance as Judy Garland in "Judy" is that irresistible thing: a comeback story. The part reverberates with Zellweger's own history; she and Garland are both former American sweethearts. She's a fine choice, but the verve and velocity of Ronan's great performance in "Little Women" shouldn't be overlooked. Formidable as this category is, it would have been better with Woodard's fully inhabited, devastatingly still performance as a prison warden in the spare "Clemency" — not to mention Lupita Nyong'o's ferocious double act in "Us."

### BEST ACTOR

The Nominees: Antonio Banderas, "Pain and Glory"; Leonardo DiCaprio, "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood"; Adam Driver, "Marriage Story"; Joaquin Phoenix, "Joker"; Jonathan Pryce, "The Two Popes"

Will Win: Joaquin Phoenix

Should Win: Adam Driver

Should Have Been a Contender: Andre Holland, "High Flying Bird"

After several years of lethargy, best actor is the year's most competitive category. The next five options — including Adam Sandler ("Uncut Gems") and Eddie Murphy ("Dolemite Is My Name") — are equally good. Phoenix, like all of this year's acting favorites, has been the clear front-runner for some time, for his morose yet limber Joker. But Driver's performance in "Marriage Story" is the real show-stopper here; a more nuanced and rewarding performance that culminates beautifully in song and tears. A shout-out also to the exceptional Holland, whose guileful, fast-talking NBA agent in "High Flying Bird" felt like a thrilling fast break.

### BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

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The Nominees: Kathy Bates, "Richard Jewell"; Laura Dern, "Marriage Story"; Scarlett Johansson, "Jojo Rabbit"; Florence Pugh, "Little Women"; Margot Robbie, "Bombshell"

Will Win: Laura Dern

Should Win: Laura Dern

Should Have Been a Contender: Zhao Shuzhen, "The Farewell"

Dern has won every precursor award ahead of the Oscars, and is poised to win her first Academy Award. That's cause for celebration. Dern has been one of the finest actresses in Hollywood for decades, and her fearsome divorce attorney in "Marriage Story" is indelible, particularly her fabulous monologue on the double-standards of modern marriage. But this category is also missing some worthy actresses, including Jennifer Lopez ("Hustlers") and Shuzhen, who played the grandmother unaware of her own cancer diagnosis in Lulu Wang's tender family drama "The Farewell."

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

The Nominees: Tom Hanks, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood"; Anthony Hopkins, "The Two Popes"; Al Pacino, "The Irishman"; Joe Pesci, "The Irishman"; Brad Pitt, "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood"

Will Win: Brad Pitt

Should Win: Brad Pitt

Should Have Been a Contender: Wesley Snipes, "Dolemite Is My Name"

Nothing is more certain this year than Pitt's win for "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," a movie that perfectly showcases Pitt's sly charisma. His march toward his first acting Oscar has been fun, too, in a string of acceptance speeches (thanks to an apparent joke writer helping him out) filled with memorable one-liners. The talent in this category is extraordinary — Pesci or Hanks would win most years — but it's still a shame there wasn't room for Snipes' irresistible prima donna actor-turned-director in "Dolemite Is My Name" or Rob Morgan's powerful death row inmate in "Just Mercy."

DIRECTOR

The Nominees: Martin Scorsese, "The Irishman"; Todd Phillips, "Joker"; Sam Mendes, "1917"; Quentin Tarantino, "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood"; Bong Joon Ho, "Parasite"

Will Win: Sam Mendes

Should Win: Martin Scorsese

Should Have Been a Contender: Marielle Heller, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood"

Mendes appears the favorite here for the technical acumen of his seemingly-one-take "1917." The pristine command of Bong would be a better choice but so would the colossal achievement of Scorsese in "The Irishman." He has won best director only once before. And in 2019, Scorsese not only produced a career-crowning masterwork but mounted a passionate defense for the future of cinema. Greta Gerwig deserved to be among the nominees here for her thrillingly vibrant "Little Women," but so did Marielle Heller ("A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood"), whose talent with texture, performance and authenticity doesn't announce itself, and can go underappreciated.

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

The Nominees: "Knives Out," Rian Johnson; "Marriage Story," Noah Baumbach; "1917," Sam Mendes and Krysty Wilson-Cairns; "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," Quentin Tarantino; "Parasite," Bong Joon Ho, Jin Won Han

Will Win: "Parasite"

Should Win: "Marriage Story"

Should Have Been a Contender: "Pain and Glory," Pedro Almodovar

A screenplay win for "Parasite" would signal a real chance for a best-picture victory. But also worthy here are two deeply personal scripts: Baumbach's stirring portrait of divorce "Marriage Story" and Almodovar's unfortunately overlooked "Pain and Glory," a sublime, autobiographical work.

ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

The Nominees: "The Irishman," Steven Zaillian; "Jojo Rabbit," Taika Waititi; "Joker," Todd Phillips, Scott Silver; "Little Women," Greta Gerwig; "The Two Popes," Anthony McCarten

Will Win: "Jojo Rabbit"

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Should Win: "Little Women"

Should Have Been a Contender: "The Laundromat," Scott Z. Burns

Waititi's clever, poignant script for the Nazi Germany coming-of-age romp "Jojo Rabbit" appears to have the edge here. There is understandably wide respect for Waititi's idiosyncratic and daring sensibility. Yet, Gerwig's script inventively pulled apart Louisa May Alcott's much-adapted novel —only to put it back together again.

DOCUMENTARY

The Nominees: "American Factory," Julia Reichert, Steven Bognar; "The Cave," Feras Fayyad; "The Edge of Democracy," Petra Costa; "For Sama," Waad Al-Kateab, Edward Watts; "Honeyland," Tamara Kotevska, Ljubo Stefanov

Will Win: "American Factory"

Should Win: "Honeyland"

Should Have Been a Contender: "Maiden," "Rolling Thunder Revue"

The sheer number of great documentaries being made today can hardly be accommodated by one category. Just for starters the snubs here include the uplifting "Maiden," about an all-female crew in a worldwide 1989 yachting race; Scorsese's fiery Dylan documentary "Rolling Thunder Revue" and the enthralling archival project "Apollo 11." "American Factory," the first film released by Barack and Michelle Obama's Higher Ground Productions, is the most likely winner. But "Honeyland," about a singular Macedonia bee-keeper, is exquisitely intimate and yet resonates with global environmental allegory.

INTERNATIONAL FILM

The Nominees: "Corpus Christi," Jan Komasa; "Honeyland," Tamara Kotevska, Ljubo Stefanov; "Les Misérables," Ladj Ly; "Pain and Glory," Pedro Almodovar; "Parasite," Bong Joon Ho

Will Win: "Parasite"

Should Win: "Honeyland"

Should Have Been a Contender: "Portrait of a Lady on Fire"

This will be an easy win for "Parasite," with potentially bigger awards to come. But little in this awards season was more disappointing than the lack of attention for Celine Sciamma's "Portrait of a Lady on Fire." The period French romance, my favorite film of 2019, narrowly missed out on being France's submission. (France instead chose the muscular police procedural "Les Misérables.") Audiences will at least have a chance to catch up to Sciamma's sensational film when it properly opens in theaters next week.

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

## Report: At least 138 sent from US to El Salvador were killed

By BEN FOX Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — At least 138 people deported to El Salvador from the United States in recent years were subsequently killed, Human Rights Watch says in a report that comes as the Trump administration makes it harder for Central Americans to seek refuge here.

A majority of the deaths documented by Human Rights Watch in the report Wednesday occurred less than a year after the deportees returned to El Salvador; some were within days. The organization also confirmed at least 70 cases of sexual assault or other violence following their arrival in the country.

The violence underscores the risk faced by people forced to return by U.S. law that mandates deportation of noncitizens convicted of a range of crimes and Trump administration policies that discourage asylum-seekers, said Alison Leal Parker, the group's U.S. managing director.

"Our concern is that many of these people are facing a death sentence," Parker said.

Between 2014 and 2018 the U.S. deported about 111,000 Salvadorans back to their homeland, which has long been in the grip of fierce gang violence.

The United Nations reported last year that killings in El Salvador, a majority of them linked to gang conflict, have declined from a peak of more than 6,000 in 2015. But the country still has one of the high-

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est homicide rates in the world.

Meanwhile, the number of Salvadorans seeking asylum in the United States grew by nearly 1,000% between 2012 and 2017, many citing threats from gangs. Only about 18% are granted asylum.

Human Rights Watch confirmed the 138 deaths during that period through official records, interviews with families and media accounts but believes the actual toll is much higher, in part because some aren't recorded due to the stigma of having been deported from the U.S. The number of assaults is likely low also because of under-reporting in the country of 6.5 million.

El Salvador's foreign minister Alexandra Hill Tinocom told reporters that at least some of those killed were gang members, though she conceded that deportees do face stigma in the country.

She blamed gang rivalries for the violence that plagues the country, and avoided a direct answer when asked about allegations in the report that police officers have killed deportees who are suspected gang members.

"Look, we have to take everything in context," she said. "Gangs kill children, they dismember people, they terrorize communities and we are working hard, very hard against them."

The deaths tracked in the study occurred under both the Trump and Obama administrations. President Donald Trump has made immigration enforcement a centerpiece of his administration, and that has included a policy of forcing asylum-seekers from Central America to wait in Mexico while their claims are evaluated and be sent back to their homelands if their claim is rejected.

Many of those asylum-seekers could previously have been released on parole in the United States for a decision that could take a year or more. The Department of Homeland Security says it's trying to make the process more efficient and crack down on fraudulent claims.

"This report is a shameful reminder of the Trump administration's xenophobic policy of denying meaningful protection to vulnerable families fleeing a certain death in their home countries," said Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., in a statement.

Parker and other critics of the administration's immigration policy say this report, and previous efforts that have documented violence against Salvadorans waiting in Mexican border towns for their claims to be processed, show the risks of the Trump administration policy.

"We are deeply concerned by the Trump administration's effort to literally eviscerate the right to seek asylum in the United States," she said.

Human Rights Watch urged the administration to repeal the policy that requires asylum-seekers to wait in Mexico along with the agreements that allow Guatemalans, Salvadorans and Hondurans to be settled in other countries of Central America while seeking refuge. They also want the attorney general to reverse restrictions that made it harder for them to claim U.S. asylum because of threats posed by gangs or gender-based violence.

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Associated Press writer Marcos Aleman in San Salvador, El Salvador, contributed to this report.

## Partial Iowa results give Buttigieg slight edge over Sanders

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

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Pete Buttigieg held a slight lead over Bernie Sanders in the opening contest of the Democratic race for the presidential nomination, according to partial results released by the Iowa Democratic Party.

The results that came out Tuesday and Wednesday followed a period of caucus chaos. Technical problems marred the complicated 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 from Monday's caucuses, 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 the data.

The results reflected 75% of precincts in the state.

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The two early leaders — Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, and Vermont Sen, 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. For the 38-year-old Buttigieg, his early standing cemented his transformation from a little-known city leader 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 no business even making this attempt — has taken its place at the front of this race," Buttigieg, said 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 play down 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, the chairman of the state party, Troy Price, declined to answer 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 news conference.

The leading candidates pressed on in New Hampshire, which votes this coming Tuesday. Billionaire Michael Bloomberg, a former New York City mayor, sensed opportunity after Iowa, and said 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 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."

For the first time, the Iowa Democratic Party reported three sets of results this year: a tally of caucusgoers' 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.

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."

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.

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

## **Iraqi officials say Baghdad wants to minimize reliance on US**

**By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Iraqi government has told its military not to seek assistance from the U.S.-led coalition in operations against the Islamic State group, two senior Iraqi military officials said, amid a crisis of mistrust between Washington and Baghdad after an American strike killed a top Iranian general and an Iraqi militia commander.

The step shows that while the Iraqi leadership's demands for an immediate removal of American forces have cooled, they are serious about rethinking the strategic relationship, and this is directly affecting military cooperation.

Officially, Iraqis have been unclear on the status of joint operations. The Iraqi military announced Jan. 30 that they had resumed after a three-week halt, but that statement was later removed and a military spokesperson rescinded the claim in remarks to state television. It was not followed up with a clarification.

The halt had been called amid soaring tensions following the Jan. 3 U.S. drone strike ordered by President Donald Trump that killed Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and senior Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in Baghdad.

On at least two occasions in January, U.S. officials said they expected the pause would be lifted imminently. But in practice, Iraqis are seeking to minimize cooperation with the anti-IS coalition, based on government orders, two Iraqi military officials and one militia official said this week.

"After the killing of Soleimani, the Iraqi government decided to inform us formally not to cooperate and not to seek assistance from the U.S.-led international coalition in any operation," a senior military intelligence official told The Associated Press.

"Until now, we have not asked the Americans to provide assistance, we rely on our capabilities to pursue IS elements. The presence of the Americans in the joint operations is only formal," the official said.

The three officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

The coalition paused its mission to fight IS in Iraq on Jan. 5 after the strike. That same day, Shiite lawmakers, irate over what they called a flagrant violation of sovereignty, passed a nonbinding resolution requesting the government cancel legal agreements that provide the basis for the U.S. troop presence in Iraq.

Outgoing Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi has stated publicly that U.S. troops must go, but he has stepped back from unilaterally canceling existing agreements, saying the matter was up to the next prime minister to decide. Prime Minister-designate Mohammed Allawi has not made his policy known toward the troop presence.

About 5,200 U.S. soldiers are stationed in Iraqi bases to support local troops fighting IS militants. They are part of a larger international coalition invited by the Iraqi government in 2014.

One of the officials, a commander in Iraq's elite U.S.-trained Counter-Terrorism Services in western Anbar province, said some training continues, but "as for military operations and carrying out operations, there is no support."

"We have knowledge that the American support to the Iraqi forces has stopped," said the commander of an Iranian-backed militia group.

No coalition airstrikes have been carried out against IS since the killing of Soleimani, said coalition spokesman Myles Caggins. In contrast, 45 strikes were conducted in Iraq in October and November.

"The Iraqis have not requested assistance with airstrikes in recent weeks, while our operations are paused. All coalition airstrikes have been coordinated with the Iraqi Security Forces for years," he said.

Iraqi military personnel who have benefited from coalition training are making appeals in private, knowing firsthand Iraq's reliance on U.S. military technologies and aircraft.

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"We have no alternative now," said the senior CTS official. "The battle against IS is technological, and we don't own any of these technologies, only the Americans do."

U.S. Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, the top American commander for the Middle East, met Tuesday with Iraqi leaders and acknowledged that joint military operations and training have been scaled back, although he said U.S. special operations forces are doing some missions with Iraqi commandos.

"We're still in a period of turbulence. We've got a ways to go," he said.

Associated Press writer Lolita C. Baldor, aboard a U.S. military aircraft, contributed.

## **Pope defrocks founder of another Latin America-based order**

**By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press**

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Another founder of a Catholic religious movement has been defrocked for sexual misconduct and abusing his power, the latest in a string of purportedly orthodox, charismatic priests who turned out to be predators.

Pope Francis defrocked the Argentine priest, Roberto Juan Yannuzzi, after a four-year investigation determined he had sex with adults under his authority, absolved them of the sin during confession and otherwise abused his power.

The pope's decision was made public this week in a statement by the archbishop of La Plata, Argentina, where Yannuzzi in 1994 founded the Miles Christi community. The name is Latin for "Soldier of Christ."

The movement is a religious order of priests, religious brothers, consecrated women and laity with a presence in Argentina, Italy, Mexico and in the U.S. dioceses of Detroit and San Diego, according to its website.

In a statement, Miles Christi said its members had denounced Yannuzzi's abuse and "irregularities" starting in 2016.

"All the religious and authorities of Miles Christi deeply regret the acts committed by their former superior general and from the outset have accompanied and continue to accompany those who were affected, providing them with all the material and spiritual assistance necessary to cope with this painful situation," the group said in a statement.

Defrocking, or dismissal from the clerical state, is the most severe sanction the Vatican can impose on a priest. It is usually reserved for priests who sexually abuse minors. The fact that Yannuzzi was defrocked for having sex with adults, absolving them of the sin and abusing his other powers suggests his misconduct was particularly grave.

Yannuzzi is the latest in a string of founders of new religious orders or Catholic lay movements who abused those in his care while the Vatican and church hierarchy turned a blind eye.

Many of the movements were based in Latin America and grew in size and wealth as a conservative reaction to the left-leaning liberation theology movement that swept through Latin America starting in the 1960s.

The 20th century's most notorious sexual predator was the late Rev. Marcial Maciel, founder of the Mexican-based Legion of Christ and a drug addict who sexually abused at least 60 of his seminarians.

The Vatican sanctioned the founder of the Peru-based Sodalitium Christianae Vitae, Luis Fernando Figari's Figari, after he was accused of sexually, physically and psychologically abusing his members. Figari founded the movement in 1971 as a lay community to recruit "soldiers for God."

In Chile, local church authorities long refused to believe abuse victims of a charismatic priest, the Rev. Fernando Karadima, who was initially sanctioned by the Vatican in 2011 to live a lifetime of penance and prayer for his crimes. In 2018, after the Karadima scandal exploded again, Francis defrocked the priest.

This story has been corrected to show the defrocked priest's movement was founded in the Argentine archdiocese of La Plata, not Lujan.



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## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 2020. There are 329 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 6, 2003, edging closer to war, President George W. Bush declared "the game is over" for Saddam Hussein and urged skeptical allies to join in disarming Iraq.

On this date:

In 1756, America's third vice president, Aaron Burr, was born in Newark, N.J.

In 1778, during the American Revolutionary War, the United States won official recognition and military support from France with the signing of a Treaty of Alliance in Paris.

In 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1862, during the Civil War, Fort Henry in Tennessee fell to Union forces.

In 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, was born in Tampico, Illinois.

In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the so-called "lame duck" amendment, was proclaimed in effect by Secretary of State Henry Stimson.

In 1952, Britain's King George VI, 56, died at Sandringham House in Norfolk, England; he was succeeded as monarch by his 25-year-old elder daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1995, the space shuttle Discovery flew to within 37 feet of the Russian space station Mir in the first rendezvous of its kind in two decades.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton signed a bill changing the name of Washington National Airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Pop music star Falco, who had a 1986 hit with "Rock Me Amadeus," died in a traffic accident in the Dominican Republic; he was 40. Carl Wilson, a founding member of The Beach Boys, died in Los Angeles at age 51.

In 2005, The New England Patriots won their third NFL championship in four years, defeating the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl XXXIX (39) by a score of 24-21.

In 2008, the Bush White House defended the use of the interrogation technique known as waterboarding, saying it was legal — not torture as critics argued — and had saved American lives. The Phoenix Suns acquired Shaquille O'Neal in a stunning blockbuster deal that sent four-time All-Star Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks to the Miami Heat.

In 2014, Jay Leno said goodbye to NBC's "The Tonight Show" for the second time, making way for Jimmy Fallon to take over as host.

Ten years ago: Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, delivering the keynote address at the first national convention of the tea party coalition in Nashville, declared, "America is ready for another revolution." American missionary Robert Park headed home after North Korea released him from six weeks' detention for crossing its border on Christmas Day to protest religious suppression in the totalitarian regime. Jerry Rice and Emmitt Smith led a class of seven new members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Five years ago: A message purportedly from the Islamic State group said an American hostage, 26-year-old aid worker Kayla Mueller (MYOO'-lur), had been killed in a Jordanian airstrike in Syria. Jordan dismissed the claim as "criminal propaganda." (Her death was later confirmed by U.S. officials.) President Barack Obama warned against American "overreach" as he outlined a new national security blueprint for his last two years in office; Obama said the threat of terrorism against the homeland had "diminished, but still persists" and vowed to degrade extremist groups using counterterrorism operations and global coalitions, not large-scale, American-led ground wars.

One year ago: The Italian fashion designer Gucci apologized for marketing a black wool sweater with an oversize collar bearing what looked like giant red lips; critics said the garment resembled blackface. A California woman went public with a sexual assault accusation against Virginia Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax; the state's governor, Ralph Northam, was already battling to hang on to his office amid an uproar over a racist photo in his 1984 medical school yearbook.

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Today's Birthdays: Actress Mamie Van Doren is 89. Actor Mike Farrell is 81. Former NBC News anchorman Tom Brokaw is 80. Singer Fabian is 77. Actress Gayle Hunnicutt is 77. Actor Michael Tucker is 75. Producer-director-writer Jim Sheridan is 71. Actor Jon Walmsley is 64. Actress Kathy Najimy is 63. Rock musician Simon Phillips (Toto) is 63. Actor-director Robert Townsend is 63. Actor Barry Miller is 62. Actress Megan Gallagher is 60. Rock singer Axl Rose (Guns N' Roses) is 58. Country singer Richie McDonald is 58. Singer Rick Astley is 54. Rock musician Tim Brown (Boo Radleys) is 51. "Good Morning America" co-host Amy Robach is 47. Actor Josh Stewart is 43. Actor Ben Lawson is 40. Actor Brandon Hammond is 36. Actress Crystal Reed (TV: "Teen Wolf") is 35. Actress Alice Greczyn (GREH'-chihn) is 34. Actress Anna Diop is 32. Rhythm and blues singer/actress Tinashe is 27.

Thought for Today: "Life is just one grand sweet song, so start the music." — President Ronald Reagan (1911-2004).

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