

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 1 of 64

- [1- Today on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [2- Lights Out on Diabetes Photos](#)
- [5- The World of Type 1 Diabetes by Natalie Casanova](#)
- [6- Lana's Annals-Week 5 Report from the House of Representatives](#)
- [7- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
- [8- AAA: President's Day Tire Test; George Does Not Tell a Lie](#)
- [9- DVDs Available](#)
- [10- Glimpses by Brock Greenfield](#)
- [12- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [13- Upcoming Events](#)
- [14- Weather Pages](#)
- [17- Daily Devotional](#)
- [18- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [19- News from the Associated Press](#)



It's Boys' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Aberdeen  
Roncalli  
Cavaliers** VS



**Groton Area Tigers**

AT GROTON AREA ARENA

5:00 p.m.: Boys C Game - sponsored by Sperry Stump Removal

6:15 p.m.: Boys JV Game - sponsored by Ronayne Law Office

7:45 p.m.: Boys Varsity Game

Sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals

Blocker Construction, Groton Dairy Queen

Jark Real Estate, John Sieh Agency

Milbrandt Enterprises, Tyson DeHoet Trucking

**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 2 of 64



Rylee Dunker, McKenna Tietz and Brodyn DeHoet were recognized as Groton Area students who have been diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. (Above Courtesy Photo from Lindsey Tietz' Facebook Page. Photo below lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 3 of 64



The boys basketball team gathered for a photo after the Moberidge-Pollock game. The afternoon was designated as Lights Out on Diabetes. (Photo Courtesy Lindsey Tietz' Facebook Page)



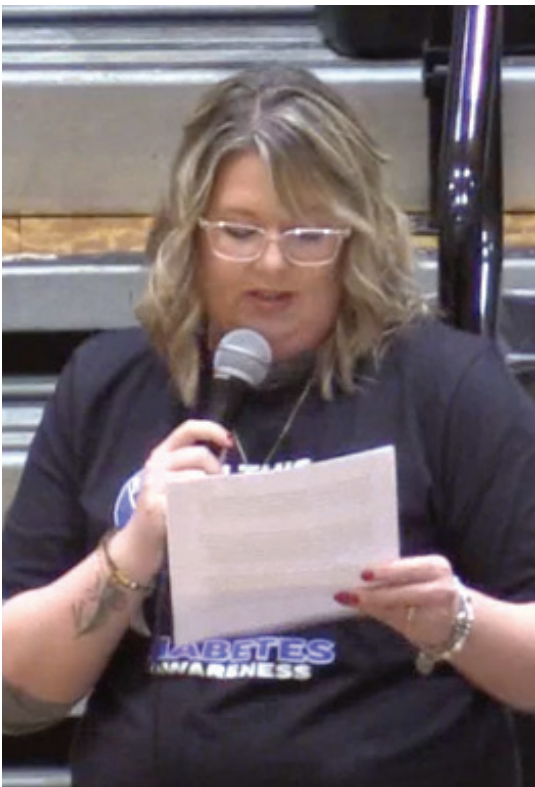
Rylee Dunker, Brodyn DeHoet and McKenna Tietz were recognized as Groton Area Students who have to deal with Type 1 Diabetes. (Photo Courtesy Lindsey Tietz' Facebook Page)

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 4 of 64



**Above: Lindsey Tietz, Lindsey DeHoet and Tasha Dunker helped to organize the Lights Out on Diabetes event at the Mobridge-Pollock game.** (Photo Courtesy Lindsey Tietz' Facebook Page)



**Natalie Casanova also helped with the Lights Out on Diabetes event. She talked first hand about Type 1 Diabetes. The video of the event can be found at the end of the Girls Basketball Game with Mobridge-Pollock under the video archives of 397news.com.** (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 5 of 64

## The World of Type 1 Diabetes

by Natalie Casanova

Natalie wrote on her Facebook Page: "When given the opportunity to educate on T1, we take it. When we can help out fellow T1 families, we do it. If we help just one person, we succeeded.

"Groton is a fantastic community that I am proud to say I was raised in. The way they come together to support one another is second to none.

"I hope "Lights out on Type 1 Diabetes" tonight was a huge success and I'm so honored to have been part of it."

### **The following is the transcript read by Natalie at the Moberidge-Pollock Lights Out on Diabetes event**

Let me introduce three Type 1 Diabetic WARRIORS who are currently enrolled in the Groton Area School District

Rylee Dunker (1/19/15) \* McKenna Tietz (10/23/17) \* Brody DeHoet (5/11/18)

I'm going to get back to these three in a minute .....

I am Natalie Casanova and fellow 1998 Groton High School Graduate. I want to thank Lindsey, Lindsey and Tasha for asking me to be here tonite to give you a brief overview on Type 1 Diabetes. I have two children who are both diabetics. Trey was diagnosed in March of 2016 at age 4. Delanie was diagnosed December 2018 at age 10.

So What is Type 1 Diabetes? Type 1 occurs when the pancreas stops producing insulin which is a hormone that regulates blood sugar. There is no known cause, but illness and genetics are thought to play a part. I also want to mention that insulin is the ONLY thing that keeps a diabetic alive. A person with Type 1 Diabetes must inject insulin multiple times a day. Insulin is NOT a cure, but without insulin, they die.

Some quick T1D Facts: Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease; it is NOT caused by eating too much sugar or from lack of exercise; over 80 people are diagnosed every day with 40 of those being children; anyone of any age can be diagnosed; you do not outgrow type 1 diabetes; there is no way to prevent it and it is not contagious; there is no cure/it doesn't go away ... it's for life; Type 1 diabetics can do anything and can eat anything; and last Type 1 diabetes is not the same as Type 2.

The most common question I get is "how did you know" so here are some warning signs to look for: unquenchable thirst; frequent urination; sudden bed-wetting; unexplained weight loss; hungry all the time; fruity smelling breath; blurry vision; stomach pains; fatigue; nausea/vomiting and sometimes rapid breathing. If your child is showing any signs like I just mentioned, please ask your family doctor to do a simple urine test and finger poke to check their blood sugar to rule out diabetes. T1D is often misdiagnosed as the stomach flu, UTI or Strep Throat.

How do you manage Type 1?? Living with T1D is a full-time job. It's 24/7/365. No days off. One must check blood sugar levels several times a day either via a finger poke or some wear a Continuous Glucose Monitor. It's carefully calculating the insulin dosage based on your foods/activity/stress/health and injecting with a needle or by an insulin pump. No two days are the same and no two diabetics are the same. It's hard work and those living with T1D are what we call ... warriors.

So getting back to these three warriors ... despite living with an incurable disease, they all participate in activities that they excel at. From football, volleyball, soccer, track, basketball and more – they don't let T1D hold them back. They have had to learn to be diligent in their diabetic care on top of everything else their sport demands of them. You might see them grabbing sugar or even injecting some insulin on the bench, but make no mistake, those are not signs of weakness ... those are signs of strength. To fight the fight every day and never give up makes them heroes. As a T1D parent myself, I would be remiss if I didn't ask for a round of applause for the moms/dads/siblings of these three kids because I know what it takes to be a T1D parent and the toll it takes on the entire family. Your children are blessed to have such a great support system not only at home, but within the Groton Community.

If anyone has any questions or would like to discuss T1D further, I would love to visit with you.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 6 of 64

## Lana's Annals-Week 5 Report from the House of Representatives

It was a busy week at the Capitol. Our committees are trying to get our bills finished in the next couple of weeks in order to meet the deadline of crossover day, which is February 27.

This past week we listened to testimony to HB1152, which asks for us to dedicate 45,000 dollars toward school sentinel training. That equates to 30 different schools being allotted 1500 dollars each to participate. The money may not all be used as not all schools choose to participate, but in case it wants to and money is needed, it could possibly be available for that purpose. We passed the bill, and it will now go to the House floor.

HB1145 asked that native students that attend post secondary institutes be allowed to attend free of charge. The argument was that some veterans get free tuition; therefore, disadvantaged students also should. After a full debate, the bill was defeated. We felt it discriminated against disadvantaged students of other races.

HB1157 was a bill requesting that students, who do not qualify for the cut off kindergarten date but are considered very advanced, should be allowed to enter school early. The logic was that if a child is ready for school, he/she should be allowed to enter. It was voted to send it to the floor. While I consider my grandchildren very bright (as you all do yours, I assume), I voted against it. I think it is important to let children be children, and entering school before they are socially and emotionally ready only ends up in frustration for the child, the parents, and the staff.

Next, we did a complete twist when HB1174 asked that the date be moved from September 1 cut off to August 1 instead. This bill got way more traction for reasons I mentioned before. Several kindergarten teachers testified that it would be advantageous to move the date. We also sent that to the floor for debate. HB1157 fell to defeat while HB1174 passed and will move on to the Senate Education committee for their consideration. I should add that laws go into effect on July 1, and there was an amendment added that if the starting date changes, it would not go into effect until 2021.

We heard HB1159 on the floor as well. It asked that school opt out provisions be changed. I heard from a couple of schools in my district that perpetual opt outs have worked very well for them, and money is only requested if the district absolutely has a need. After discussion, we chose to defeat the bill, so opt outs will remain the same.

HB1008, aka the hemp bill, passed the House floor 54-12. There was no ceremony, no cheering, no one in the gallery to express delight nor derision. I thought to myself that for all of the discussion we had last year, the time some legislators spent during the summer to create parameters, and further follow up to draft somewhat agreeable legislation, it received a very lack-luster response.

This week the education committee will be hearing 2 bills on dyslexia (Friday). The purpose of these bills is to define the learning challenge and discuss services available. The other will provide a list of possible accommodations to be made. One testifier will explain her difficult journey of being an undiagnosed dyslexic in grade one-three and how life changed once her disability was uncovered.

Other bills of interest may be Spanish driver's license, CAFOs, water fowl bills, and re-doing the riot boosting verbiage, just to name a few.

I do hope that you are staying informed on bills. It is never accurate to look at the titles and think one knows what the bill is about. Please read and study; next, think critically about how the bill would affect you, your family, and our state. Thank you to the people who have come to Pierre to attend a session or to testify. I hope that more of you get the chance to do so.

Until next week, stay warm and healthy.

Rep. Greenfield

ana.greenfield@gmail.com or lana.greenfield@sdlegislature.gov

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 7 of 64

## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Now that the offseason is here, we are looking back at the 2019 Minnesota Vikings to see how the team performed. This week we focus on the defense. If you missed it, make sure to check out last week's article that covers the offense.

Since Mike Zimmer took over as the head coach in 2014, the Vikings' defense has been one of the best in the league – even though the 2019 season was seen by many as a step back. At the end of the day, a defense's job is to keep the opposing team out of the endzone, which is why the most important stat when looking at defensive prowess is points allowed per game. Since 2014, here are the Vikings' ppg rankings:

2014 – 21.4 (11th in the league)

2015 – 18.9 (5th)

2016 – 19.2 (6th)

2017 – 15.8 (1st)

2018 – 21.3 (9th)

2019 – 18.9 (5th)

The Vikings' strength in 2019 was the defensive line, as the team finished fifth in sacks (48). After finishing second in the league with 14.5 sacks and fourth in the league with three forced fumbles, Danielle Hunter has finally become a household name. Everson Griffen is getting to be an old man by football standards (32 years old), so his production declined a bit in 2019, although he still finished 19th in the league with eight sacks. Ifeadi Odenigbo was the first defensive end off the bench for the Vikings, and after finishing with seven sacks, there is a chance he becomes the starter in 2020 if Griffen gets cut because of his high salary. Linval Joseph wasn't his usual dominant presence in the middle, but the veteran defensive tackle still finished with three sacks last season.

At linebacker, Eric Kendricks has firmly established himself as one of the top middle linebackers in the nation. Not only is he a sure tackler, but he took his pass coverage to a whole new level in 2019 with 12 pass breakups. Pro Football Focus even had an article making their case for Kendricks as the defensive player of the year! His running mate, Anthony Barr, had a decent if unspectacular season. The Vikings paid him big money in the hopes he would provide plenty of playmaking, but he only had 1.5 sack and one interception in 2019. Eric Wilson was the third linebacker for the Vikings, but only played 34.5% of the snaps on defense because the Vikings are usually in their nickel defense, where they take a linebacker off the field in favor of a cornerback.

Cornerback should have been a strength for the Vikings last season, but it ended up as one of the weakest links. Xavier Rhodes was a shut-down corner in 2017 but has taken a major step back the last two seasons and will likely be cut this offseason. Trae Waynes was average as the starter opposite Rhodes, but he was on the last year of his rookie contract, so the Vikings will have to decide if they want to bring him back or let him go to another team. Mackensie Alexander had developed into one of the better slot corners in the league, but like Waynes, his contract is up and he'll be a free agent this offseason. After an injury cut his rookie campaign short, Mike Hughes returned to the field week three. He played well, but it remains to be seen if the Vikings are comfortable inserting him into the starting lineup.

The safety position has been a strength of the Vikings for many years now, and 2019 might have been the groups' best year under Mike Zimmer. Everyone knows Harrison Smith is one of the best safeties in the NFL. He filled the stat sheet last season, finishing with 85 tackles, 11 pass deflections, three interceptions, three forced fumbles, and a sack. Smith's partner on the backend, safety Anthony Harris, was the biggest surprise for the team last year. The fifth year pro was tied for first in the NFL with six interceptions in 2019. Harris is another player whose contract is up, but he is likely the Vikings' top priority heading into 2020.

Check out our free agency primer next week. If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL) Skol!

## AAA: President's Day Tire Test; George Does Not Tell a Lie

Are your tires about to be history? George Washington can help you find out before it's too late.

Feb. 17, 2020 – AAA South Dakota is encouraging motorists to use President's Day – and George Washington's head – to check their tires, reducing risks on the road, including the potential damage to their tires and vehicles caused by potholes.

Regularly checking tire pressure and tread depth are the two checks AAA says can help motorists keep tires in optimal condition.

"The two most important tire safety checks – a pressure reading and tread depth measurement – are very simple to do," according to Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "If motorists spend about two minutes on each tire, they will keep their tires at peak performance."

### Here's where George Washington comes in.

Checking tire tread depth:

Measure tread depth with a quarter. When the top of Washington's head is exposed (see photo), it's time to start shopping for new tires.

Another simple way to check tire tread health is using the tread wear indicators ("wear bars"), which are found at the base of the main tread grooves and are equally spaced around the tire. When you see your tire tread getting close to the depth of these wear bars, the tire is worn out and it's time to replace the tire. AAA recommends that tires are replaced when tread reaches 4/32". Waiting until the tread reaches the "wear bar" is too late.

Checking tire pressure:

Use a quality gauge to check tire pressure.

For proper results, make sure tires are cold.

Look for the recommended air pressure in the vehicle's owner's manual or on the tire information decal located inside the driver's side door or in the glove compartment. (NOTE: The number molded into the tire sidewall is not recommended for normal operating condition; this specification is for a tire that is carrying its maximum rated payload.)

AAA reminds motorists not to forget to also periodically check the air in your spare tire, so it's road ready in case of an emergency.

"Under-inflated tires can cause driving hazards and severely decrease the life of your tires," says AAA South Dakota's Buskohl. "Worn tires are a significant safety risk due to lack of traction and the threat of tire failure, so they should be replaced immediately."

AAA testing has shown that tires with only half of their tread depth can take up six feet longer to stop from 40 miles-per-hour on a wet surface, even with the anti-lock braking system engaged.





# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 9 of 64

AAA South Dakota offers the following maintenance tips to extend tire life:

**Recognize Noises/Vibrations** – February can be notorious for potholes. A hard pothole impact can dislodge wheel weights, damage a tire or wheel, and bend or even break suspension components. Any new or unusual noises or vibrations that appear after hitting a pothole should be inspected immediately by a certified technician.

**Alignment** – Check the alignment every six months. Potholes and road imperfections can cause alignment adjustments to change. Large potholes are also known for damaging tires and rims.

**Rotation** – A four-wheel tire rotation is recommended by most tire manufacturers after every 6,000 miles. Rotating tires every other oil change is an easy way to keep track of this service.

**Inspection** – Inspect tires when checking tire pressure. Inspect tire tread for wear, damage, or heavy cracking. Inspect sidewalls for cracks, cuts, bulges, bubbles, and slices. Any damage to the sidewall would render the tire unsafe. Blemishes from tire manufacturing, one or more indentations in the sidewall from tire assembly, or scrapes/bruises from light curb rubs are not major issues. Have any noticeable damage to the tire inspected by a trained professional as soon as possible.

**You can now order DVDs of many of the GDILIVE.COM recordings on our home page at 397news.com. Look on the left hand side for DVDs. The available events will be grouped together by season. So if you you're looking for just girls varsity, all of the available games will be under that category. We will be adding to the library the available events.**

**The format of the videos is Mpeg-4. Not all formats are playable on all devices.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 10 of 64

## Glimpses by Brock Greenfield

As we have now eclipsed the halfway point of session, seventh floor proceedings have gotten more involved and drawn out. The bills that have come before us have been more heavily debated, and the volume is generally higher than the first four weeks of session. A number of bills the past week were of more interest to people, based upon the number of emails that I received.

SB 76 to require that written drivers' exams must be given in other languages if a non-English-speaking person is attempting to get his or her driver's license. A similar bill passed the Senate last year and was killed on the house side. Again this year, the bill passed the Senate by a margin of 24-11. Last year, I voted in favor of the legislation because I was convinced that we have a workforce development issue, and some new comers to our state or not fluent enough English to take the written test. However, in many cases, they are accomplished drivers in their home countries. The reason I voted against the bill this year is because the one person of Spanish heritage on our Senate side spoke against the bill and said that when her family came to the US, they were not fluent in English but they knew it was imperative that they learned the language in order to succeed. Moreover, she said that it's been her experience that people who do not assimilate by learning the language are subject to exploitation by those who employ them. This ring true to the situation I am aware of with the young lady who came here illegally and began working as a waitress. She said that until she became a legal citizen, she was treated poorly by her employer. It is a tough issue, but I couldn't get over that argument. I want to see people have abundant opportunities, but arguably the best opportunities will come their way if they establish a foundation free of language barriers. Also, while many signs are universal because of their shapes and colors, others contain instructions and warnings that are only written in English.

SJR 501 passed the Senate, also by a margin of 24-11. If this resolution passes the house, the electorate would be asked to vote on the issue of allowing sports wagering in Deadwood. Because of federal decisions, this issue has come before us each of the past two years. A number of states have already allowed for sports wagering, and with Deadwood being a venue where gambling is allowed, they're trying to add one more option to their offerings. Currently, because of the Internet, a number of South Dakotans are able to wager on sporting events, but they do so in other jurisdictions. If this ends up being presented as a ballot measure and it passes, the proceeds would be able to be utilized within the state of South Dakota, rather than being surrendered to another state. I am not a gambler, but I know that a number of people are interested in having this option available to them via Deadwood gaming centers. I mentioned this, because he may well be asked to weigh in during the next election.

Last session, we passed a bill that allowed people who have enhanced concealed weapons permits to carry in court houses or in the state capital under certain conditions. To date, this has been working at the state capital, but the law has passed last year called for a renewal on a monthly basis. It has been said that that is too onerous on both the enhanced concealed weapons permit holder and on law-enforcement having to do the background checks every 30 days. This bill would allow for a once-a-year renewal. The bill prevailed, 30-5.

It was brought to our attention that the 911 telecommunicator training fund has been running in the red for the past few years. SB 26 seats to increase the amount of court fees associated with fines from \$40-\$50 for the next year. If the bill passes as is, all the additional dollars will be placed in the 911 fund for one year. After that, the court fees would return to \$40 per fine. Originally, the bill did not call for a sunset of the additional \$10. Instead it ratcheted down the 911 fund allocation by \$8.50 and redirected the excess to other areas. The Senate killed that bill, but allowed for it to be reconsidered with the new amendment placed on it. The new version prevailed 31-3.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 11 of 64

I pitched SB 90 on the floor. This bill sought to secure additional dollars for county and township road projects. Under the current system, it is estimated that approximately \$17 million of gas taxes are the direct result of Township Road travel. However, only \$700,000 are directed to counties and townships. Also, of note is that the counties are not compelled under the law to provide the townships with the 40% contemplated in the law. Said another way, if counties have road projects that require all the funds to be spent on their projects, the townships are left out of the redistribution of funds. This bill would have secured \$2.4 million to be divided between the townships and counties. With all the damage sustained over the past year, a number of our townships are finding themselves in very bad situations. They're not able to levy enough to even repay loans over a 7-year time span because of the extraordinary costs of replacing culverts and other structures that have been damaged or destroyed. Given the amount of money that is derived from travel on township roads and the relative cost of maintenance and repair, a person to make a strong argument that they should be entitled to a much larger share than even my bill would have called for. However, the argument was made that the new mitigation fund that have been made available will allow for them to have a source of dollars were not previously available to them. SB 90 failed 18-16. Although received a majority vote, it was ruled that it needed a 2/3 majority because the funds would have been continuously appropriated in a way that they currently aren't.

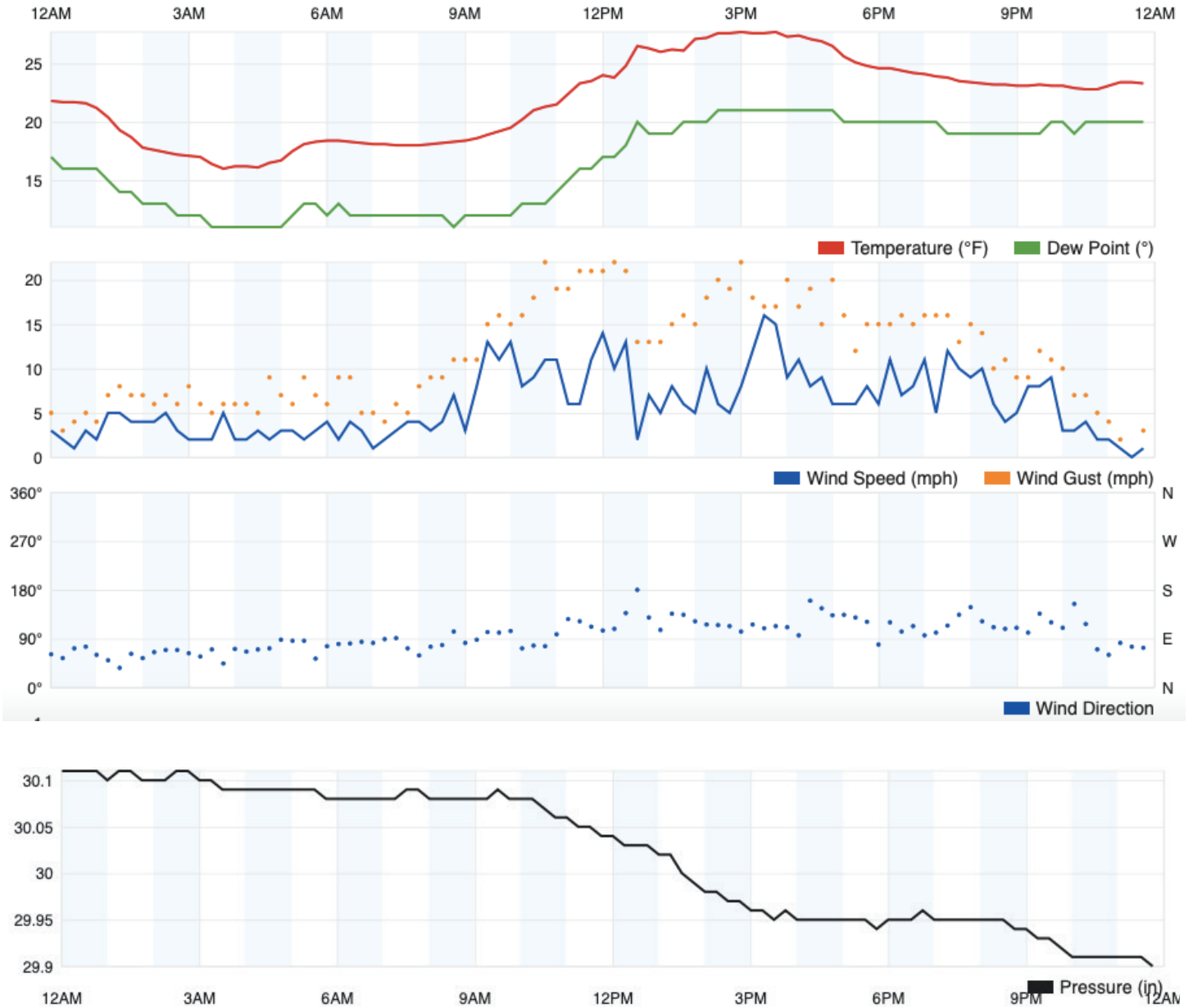
Finally, as you have probably read or heard on the news, HB 1057, which sought to prohibit gender reassignment surgery is on children under sixteen years of age, failed in committee, 5-2. Interestingly, some of the very importance of this bill who feel the children are able to make this life altering decision at such a young age argued exactly the opposite when it came to a drivers license issue that was on the floor. That bill (SB 113) calls for children who have received an instructional permit to have a parent or guardian with them for nine months, and it stipulates that they can only allow one other non-family member under 18 to be with them until the driver reaches the age of 18. During the debate on SB 113, they made an impassioned plea that a person under 18 doesn't have a fully developed frontal lobe and they should be under parental supervision for a longer period of time and should not be surrounded with additional distractions. Yet when it came to HB 1057, they felt that children were capable of making permanent decisions that will sterilize them and that are irreversible. Regarding HB 1057, some argued that the parents have the ultimate responsibility and should be allowed to help their children make the sex-change operation decision. However, we have all sorts of laws that limit the decision making ability of minors and their parents. Children must remain in school until they're at least 18. They cannot sell fireworks until they're 18. After this year, they won't be able to buy tobacco products until they are 21. They cannot go to R-rated movies until they're 17. They can't even enter into contracts or make legal purchases without their parents signing off on them. There are a host of other laws on the books regarding what kids can and cannot do. And as I noted in committee, we look back at previous practices of castrating young boys in an effort to try to keep them singing in a soprano range, and more recently our prohibition on female genital mutilation, and we say how could anybody be so uncivilized us to do that to a child. Yeah when it comes to trying to restrict life-changing decisions until a person is at least 16, we allow doctors to engage in those very practices. If, in fact, we are worried about parental responsibility, there are a number of laws that should come under increased scrutiny because the long arm of government has said some decisions cannot be made by children and their parents. Until Aamir six or seven years ago, some of these issues seemed unfathomable. But as the world changes and children become part of a broader social experiment, we will see a normalization of things that onceseemed beyond our comprehension.

As they say, you win some and you lose some. Fortunately, most often common sense prevails, and I am often on the side the prevails and am able to affect positive change. I appreciate every day that I get to work for you.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 12 of 64

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 13 of 64

## Upcoming Events

### **Monday, February 17, 2020**

President's Day - NO SCHOOL

Boys Basketball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli. C game at 5 p.m. followed by JV then Varsity.

### **Tuesday, February 18, 2020**

Girls Varsity at Webster Area. JV game at 6:30 p.m. followed by Varsity Game.

7 pm.: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center

### **Wednesday, February 19, 2020**

Life Touch Pictures at MS/HS

### **Thursday, February 20, 2020**

Girls Basketball hosts Milbank. C game at 5 p.m. followed by JV then Varsity

### **Friday, February 21, 2020**

Boys Basketball at Milbank. C game at 5 p.m., followed by JV then Varsity.

6:30pm: Elementary PAC Science Night at Groton Area Elementary School

### **Saturday, February 22, 2020**

Basketball: Boys 7th/8th Jamboree at Britton-Hecla High School

10:00am: Wrestling: Varsity Regions at Sisseton

### **Monday, February 24, 2020**

Life Touch pictures at elementary school

# Broton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 14 of 64

## Washington's Birthday



Patchy Fog then Partly Sunny

High: 26 °F

## Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 5 °F

## Tuesday



Slight Chance Snow then Mostly Cloudy

High: 12 °F

## Tuesday Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: -12 °F

## Wednesday



Cold

High: 6 °F

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD  
www.weather.gov/abr  
Created: 2/17/2020 2:23 AM

Monday	Tuesday
20s & Low 30s	Teens & 20s
<b>FOG</b>	
Fog & Clouds Breezy North Winds	North Breeze Turning Colder With Light Snow

Morning fog and clouds will keep temperatures in the 20s and 30s today, however colder air returns mid-week. Light snow (maybe a dusting) will be possible for north central/central South Dakota during the day Tuesday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 15 of 64

## Today in Weather History

February 17, 1962: Very heavy snow of 20 to 30 inches fell across the southeastern half of South Dakota. One location had 44 inches of snowfall from the storm. Everything was shut-down due to the storm, including roads, schools, and businesses. Some snowfall amounts included, 10 inches at Bryant, 11 inches at Miller, 20 inches at Mitchell, 21 inches at Redfield, 23 inches at Huron, and 32 inches at Sioux Falls.

February 17, 1972: In Minnesota, high winds of 30 to 50 mph across southern and central Minnesota reduced visibilities to zero at times from blowing snow. Wind gusts of 90 mph were reported at Worthington and Fairmont. Snow of 2 to 6 inches fell across the state. The blizzard stopped almost all traffic from west-central through the south-central part of the state. Most schools in the area closed. Dozens to hundreds of people were stranded in nearly every town. Many communities stopped all traffic from leaving town. The snow derailed a train at Butterfield. There were many auto accidents. In South Dakota, freezing rain followed by snow accompanied by winds of over 60 mph produced hazardous driving conditions in the area. Traffic was brought to a standstill in many areas resulting in cancellations of school and other activities. Some accidents occurred due to the icy roads. Although the snowfall was light, strong winds caused drifting with visibilities to near zero at times.

February 17, 1991: On February 17th, a significant snowstorm dumped massive amounts of snow on most of the state from the Black Hills, southwest, central, east-central, and the northeast. At the end of the storm, parts of the black hills received up to 2 feet of snow while the rest of the affected area had between 8 and 15 inches. The heavy snow caused most of Interstate 90 west of the Missouri River to close, as well as many other highways in the central part of the state. Many cars and trucks skidded off the roads, causing many minor injuries. The only serious injury was a man rolled his vehicle over after losing control near Belvidere.

1926: A deadly avalanche, Utah's worst, demolishes 14 miner's cottages and a three-story boarding house in Bingham Canyon. Thirty-six are killed and 13 injured.

1930 - Eureka, CA, reported an all-time record high of 85 degrees, a record which lasted until September of 1983. (The Weather Channel)

1936 - The temperature at McIntosh SD plunged to 58 degrees below zero to establish a state record. (David Ludlum)

1958: From the 14th through the 17th, one of the most significant snowstorms of the mid 20th century struck the northeastern U.S. The storm produced 30 inches of snow in the interior of New England, including more than 19 inches in 24 hours at the Boston Airport. The same storm produced up to three feet of snow in the Middle Atlantic Coast Region, with 14 inches at Washington D.C., and 15.5 inches in Baltimore, Maryland. The storm resulted in 43 deaths and 500 million dollars damage over the Middle Atlantic Coast States.

1973: Snow showers moved across southeast Texas, with most locations only reporting snow flurries. However, the Houston Intercontinental Airport measured 1.4 inches of snow.

1987 - A couple of winter storms, one off the Atlantic coast and another over the south central U.S., produced snow and ice from the Mississippi Valley to the Mid Atlantic Coast Region. Freezing rain produced a coat of ice three inches thick in northern South Carolina, and 30,000 homes around Pee Dee were left without electricity. Parts of south central Kentucky were without electricity for three days following the storm, which was their worst in 35 years. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Santa Ana winds in southern California gusted to 63 mph at Ontario. Heavy snow blanketed parts of Colorado, with 11 inches reported at Strontia. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Low pressure off the Washington coast produced more than a foot of snow in the Cascade Mountains, and more than three inches of rain along the Northern Pacific Coast. Spokane WA was blanketed with 13 inches of snow. Cold arctic air in the Upper Midwest produced all-time record high barometric pressure readings of 31.10 inches at Duluth MN, 31.09 inches at Minneapolis MN, and 31.21 inches at Bismarck ND. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

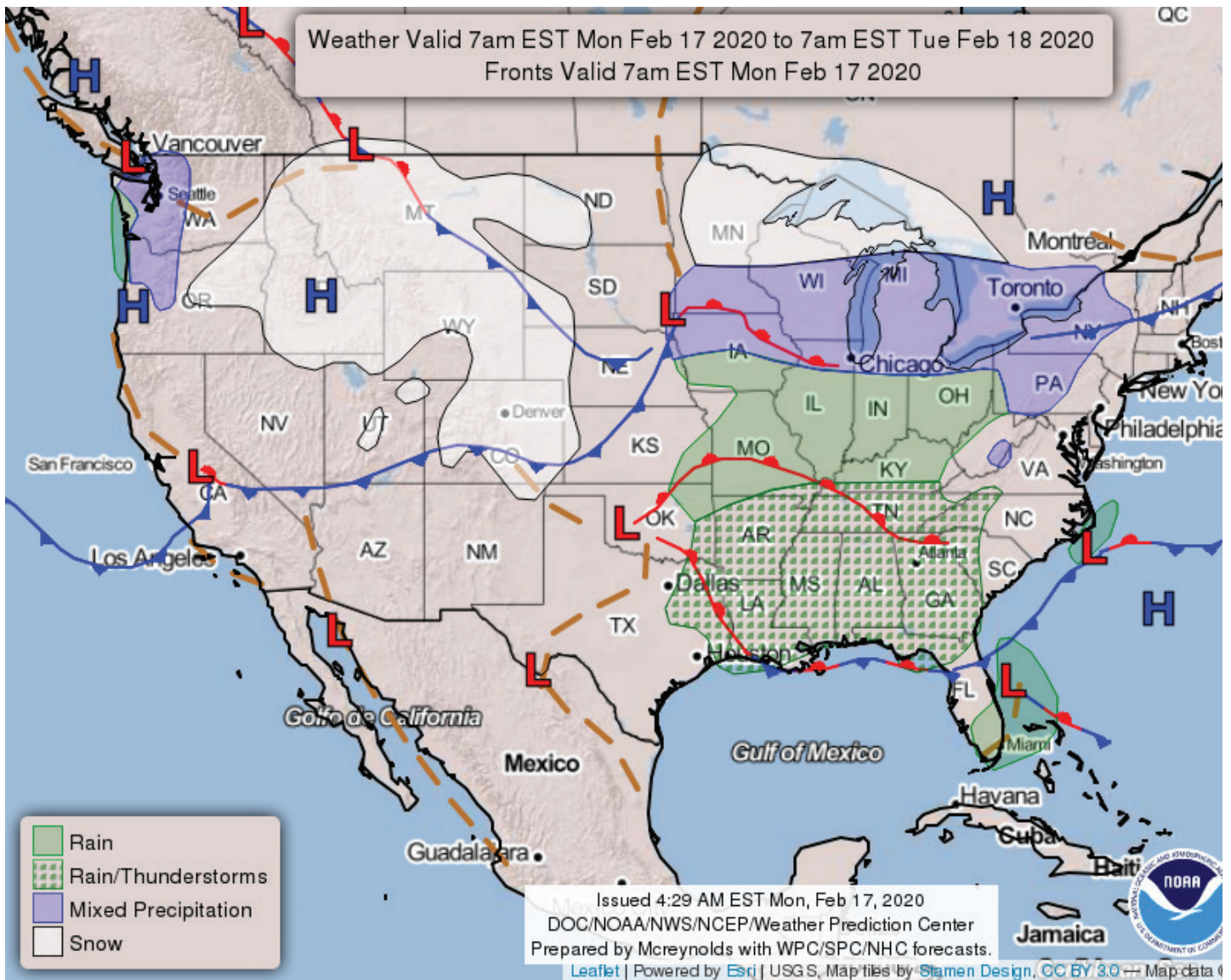
# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 16 of 64

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 28 °F at 2:52 PM**  
**Low Temp: 16 °F at 3:41 AM**  
**Wind: 22 mph at 10:38 AM**  
**Snow**

**Record High: 58° in 1930**  
**Record Low: -39° in 1903**  
**Average High: 29°F**  
**Average Low: 8°F**  
**Average Precip in Feb.: 0.27**  
**Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 0.74**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.35**  
**Sunset Tonight: 6:03 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:31 a.m.**





# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 17 of 64



## REACH OUT

Years ago Ben Franklin Stores were a major, successful retail chain. Many of their customers came from rural areas to shop for their needs. One observant employee overheard some customers describing the difficult time they had in getting to one of the stores to shop. He discussed the problem with Franklin and recommended to him that he open some stores in rural areas. When his suggestion was rejected, he resigned and began building stores closer to the people.

As a result of his vision, Sam Walton's name is known around the world and Wal-Mart stores are everywhere. He did not expect people to come to him. So, he went to the people!

One day Jesus said to Simon, "Now, go out where it is deeper and let down your nets and catch some fish." Initially, Simon was hesitant, saying that he and his co-workers had already tried that and it did not work. Then, after thinking for a moment, he said to His Lord, "But if You say so, I'll let them down again." And when he followed the advice of Jesus, the results were simply amazing.

Jesus left a command for each of us to obey: "Go into the world and make disciples!" Fish never come to the fisherman - the fishermen always go where the fish are. Skepticism and disobedience to Christ's command have ended many opportunities to reach out to win the lost. Like Sam Walton, we must go to the people with God's message of love, mercy, grace, salvation, and hope.

Prayer: Father, may we reach beyond our homes, our churches, and "our world," to find those whom You love and died for. May we do all that we can to win the lost. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Luke 5:1-11 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 18 of 64

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 03/14/2020 Youth Girls/Boys Basketball Tourney Grades 4th-6th (Baseball/Softball Foundation Fundraiser)
  - 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
  - 04/04/2020 Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
  - 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
  - 04/25-26/2020 Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
  - 04/26/2020 Father/Daughter dance.
  - 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
  - 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
  - 06/05/2020 Athletic Fundraiser at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
  - 06/19/2020 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/22/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ladies Invitational
  - 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
  - 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
  - 07/16/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Golf Tourney
  - 07/31-08/04/2020 State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
  - 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
  - 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic
  - 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
  - 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
  - 10/31/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat
  - 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
  - 11/14/2020 Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
  - 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
  - 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
  - 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates
- 
- Bingo every Wednesday 6:30pm at the American Legion Post #39
  - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Meat, American Legion Post #39 7pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
  - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Pizza, Jungle Lanes 8pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
- 
- All dates are subject to change, check for updates here

## News from the Associated Press

### **Woman, child rescued from burning Sioux Falls apartment**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Firefighters rescued a woman and child trapped on the balcony of a burning apartment in Sioux Falls, officials said.

Crews responded to the apartment building about 2 a.m. Sunday and saw smoke and flames coming from the patio door of a second-floor apartment.

Firefighters used a ladder to reach the woman and child on the balcony.

The Argus Leader reports residents of adjacent apartments were evacuated. One resident sustained a minor injury.

Officials say the fire was contained to the apartment where it started, although there was smoke damage in the hallway.

### **'Fighting for my life': Woman recovers from coma**

By **ARIELLE ZIONTS** Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A little over a year ago, Sheena Between Lodges woke up from a coma at the Rapid City hospital not knowing where she was or what she was doing there.

"It was really terrifying," the 33-year-old said. "I had no memory of how I ended up there, why I was in there."

Nurses told Between Lodges where she was while family and detectives told her she was nearly beaten to death. But brain damage caused her to forget those details each time she woke up for the next few weeks.

"I'd get up in the middle of the night and just start crying, just bawling," Between Lodges told the Rapid City Journal during a recent interview in Rapid City. "The nurses would have to come in and calm me down."

Now, after brain surgeries that removed and replaced part of her skull, physical therapy to re-learn how to write and walk, testifying at a trial where a conviction was later overturned, and lingering memory and vision problems, Between Lodges is moving forward, motivated by her love for her children, support from her friends and family, and a new sober lifestyle.

"Every day I can't believe I almost didn't make it and that scares me," Between Lodges said while tearing up. But "I think there's a reason why I had to come back, I had to come back to be there for my daughters and be there for my little brother.

"I was fighting for my life. If it wasn't for my strong will, my kids, and all of the support and prayers for me, I wouldn't be here today," she said.

#### Recovery

The last thing Between Lodges remembers before waking up in the hospital on Nov. 12, 2018, was hanging out at a bar in Oelrichs with her cousin Weldon Two Bulls, ex-boyfriend Gilbert Lakota and Lily Larvie, Lakota's sister.

"After that I don't remember" anything, she said.

Between Lodges said that detectives told her she was found Nov. 5, 2018, in the Pine Ridge home she shared with Lakota after he called 911 to say she was unresponsive. She had been lying there unconscious since Nov. 2 after Lakota and Larvie beat her up, federal prosecutors said in court and documents.

Between Lodges was found with two black eyes, "extensive" head-to-toe bruising and "as near to death" as possible, prosecutor Cassandra DeCoste said at the federal court in Rapid City.

Doctors at the Indian Health Service hospital in Pine Ridge found Between Lodges was having seizures and that her brain was bleeding so they transported her by helicopter to the Rapid City hospital so neurosurgeons could remove part of her skull to drain the blood and let the swelling go down, DeCoste said. Doctors weren't sure if she would ever wake up.

Between Lodges had a traumatic brain injury and was in a coma until Nov. 12, 2018, her family told In-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 20 of 64

dianz.com at the time. She told the Journal that she stayed in the hospital until mid-February 2019 before doing in-patient physical therapy through March.

Physical therapy was "challenging," but "I kept pushing myself every day," she said.

Between Lodges has made a remarkable physical and mental recovery but has some permanent damage. She has a scar on her throat after doctors inserted a tube to help her breathe, no peripheral vision in her left eye, and sometimes has problems recalling memories from both before and after her brain injury.

The memory difficulties test Between Lodges' patience. And they've left her unable to work so she receives disability payments to help support her two daughters and younger brother she's raising in a home she shares with her best friend Dusty LeBeau on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

No conviction

While DeCoste said in documents and in court that Lakota and Larvie attacked Between Lodges, they were never charged with the crime. But Two Bulls was charged with being an accessory after the fact for allegedly covering up the beating and making a false statement for allegedly telling a detective he was too intoxicated to remember what happened to his cousin.

Defense lawyer Jennifer Albertson said during the March 2019 trial that Between Lodges' injuries may have been from a fall, not a beating, since she was "drunk all the time," and that DeCoste needed a guilty verdict from Two Bulls so they can use him to go after Lakota and Larvie.

But the doctors who treated Between Lodges found that her injuries were consistent with someone who was strangled and beat with a blunt object, court records show.

Between Lodges told the Journal that she testified during the trial but couldn't say what happened due to her memory gap. But she told the jury that Lakota and Larvie attacked her in the past, and that Two Bulls had witnessed and intervened in some of those incidents.

She said she never reported the previous abuse because at the time she thought it would be best to stay quiet for the sake of her and Lakota's daughter. Between Lodges would call her friends and family for help but never reported the abuse to police, a relative said in a November 2018 article on Indianz.com.

After a two-day trial, the jury convicted Two Bulls for making a false statement and deadlocked on the accessory charge. But in a rare move, Judge Roberto Lange overturned the conviction a month later.

Lange wrote in a document that "no reasonable jury" could convict Two Bulls since an interview recorded him saying he was too drunk to remember which days he borrowed Between Lodges' vehicle, not that he was too drunk to remember what happened to her.

Then, in November 2019, Lange dismissed Two Bulls' accessory charge at the request of both Albertson and DeCoste. Lange said DeCoste could re-file the charges at a later date.

"He was supposed to be my blood but yet he chose to have their backs, not mine," Between Lodges said of her cousin's decision to allegedly not admit what Lakota and Larvie did.

But Between Lodges says she doesn't dwell on the fact that no one has been convicted in her case because she never counted on that to happen.

"From the beginning, I knew nobody was going to get arrested ... I've seen it happen before" to other domestic violence victims, she said. "Law enforcement, they fail a lot of women" and witnesses sometimes don't speak up.

But "the truth will come out, they'll get judged someday," Between Lodges said.

Prosecutor Gregg Peterman, who oversees the U.S. Attorney's Office in Rapid City, said he can't discuss the specifics of the Between Lodges case beyond saying it "remains open."

Generally speaking, he said, it's important to remember that suspects can't be forced to speak with law enforcement or testify at trial, and that prosecutors can only charge people if they believe a 12-person jury will find them guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

He said it's helpful, but not always necessary, when cases have corroborating evidence such as statements from the victim and witnesses, forensics, and video evidence. And he said it can be a "tremendous hurdle" to prosecute cases when victims can't remember what happened.

Moving forward

Between Lodges doesn't have any major plans for the future, she's just focused on living "happily ever

after” with her daughters and brother.

“I’m handling it, I’m just moving on forward with my life,” she said. “I’m glad to be here with my kids, not drinking, staying sober.”

Between Lodges — who divides her life into the “old Sheena” who drank and the sober “new Sheena” — said she didn’t need to go through any treatment program to quit drinking, all she needed was to think about her children’s future. And she’s also cut ties with bad influences in her life and found that being sober makes her happier.

Instead of picking up a bottle to deal with stress, she now listens to music, goes on a drive, calls family members and leans on LeBeau for support.

“She’s my rock and she keeps me in line,” Between Lodges said.

Between Lodges says she also thinks about all the friends, family and community members who supported her. Julian Bear Runner, president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, wrote about her assault on his Facebook page while OST Victim Services held prayer circles and walks for her. She’s now begun helping other domestic abuse survivors and wants to encourage victims to speak up.

“Girls out there in abusive relationships, they shouldn’t be afraid to tell somebody,” she said.

Between Lodges said some people tell her she should be afraid to live on the reservation where her alleged attackers — whom she has protective orders against through OST courts — also live.

“I just live my life daily,” she said. “I grew up there and they’re definitely not going to scare me out of there.”

## Dentlinger rallies South Dakota State to 75-64 win over PFW

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Sophomore Matt Dentlinger totaled 18 points, 10 rebounds and five blocked shots and South Dakota State dominated the second half and beat Purdue Fort Wayne 75-64 on Sunday.

Dentlinger made all eight of his shots from the floor in picking up his fifth double-double of the season for the Jackrabbits (20-8, 11-2 Summit League). Douglas Wilson added 17 points on 7-of-8 shooting with five rebounds, while freshman David Wingett hit three 3-pointers and scored 14.

South Dakota State trailed 36-26 at the half before outscoring the Mastodons 49-28 after intermission. The Jackrabbits entered play tied with North Dakota State atop the league standings.

Matt Holba had 13 points and five rebounds to pace Purdue Fort Wayne (12-16, 5-8). Jarred Godfrey sank 7 of 8 foul shots and scored 12.

South Dakota State shot 50% from the floor but just 29% from beyond the arc (7 of 24). The Jackrabbits made 16 of 22 at the free-throw line. Purdue Fort Wayne shot 37.5% overall and 24% from distance (6 of 25). The Mastodons hit 16 of 23 foul shots.

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

## Complaints against Rapid City officers lowest in nine years

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police say complaints against officers in 2019 were the lowest in nine years.

Citizens filed 12 complaints last year compared to a high of 56 in 2015 and an average of 35 between 2011-2019, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Last year also marked the debut of equipping officers with body cameras, allowing the department to use the footage to help investigate the complaints.

The 12 complaints were the result of 142,186 calls for service and 8,243 arrests.

“The high volume of work and the low number of complaints is a positive reflection of the quality of employees who serve you as well as the training they receive,” Police Chief Karl Jegeris wrote in the report.

Jegeris said the department takes the complaints seriously and when “we are wrong we admit it, and we take measures to improve our ability to provide service to citizens.”

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 22 of 64

## With 'Mother Nature in charge,' dams unleash floodwaters

By **ROGELIO V. SOLIS** and **MICHAEL WARREN** undefined

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Days and days of heavy rain have created a dilemma for authorities managing dams along swollen rivers in Mississippi and Tennessee. The water has to be released eventually, worsening the flooding for people living downstream.

Dramatic video posted by a Tennessee fire department showed the impact: Two houses tumbled down a bluff over the Tennessee River, while many others have been swamped to their rooftops, as entire neighborhoods disappear in muddy water below the Tennessee Valley Authority's Pickwick Reservoir.

"It absolutely kills you, knowing that" houses are getting destroyed downstream from the dam, TVA spokesman Jim Hopson told The Associated Press on Monday. "We have engineers on duty 24-7 trying to figure out what's the most effective way to move this water downstream with the least impact. They feel it. I feel it."

February's rains have been "400 percent of normal, and we have more coming in this week. It's kind of a never-ending battle," Hopson added.

Mississippi still faces a "precarious situation that can turn at any moment," Gov. Tate Reeves said Sunday in Jackson, where the Pearl River was expected to peak Monday after flooding the state capital and its surroundings. With more rain on the way this week, it could be days before the flood waters begin to recede, he warned.

In one Jackson neighborhood, residents paddled canoes, kayaks and small fishing boats to check on their houses, giving lifts to other neighbors. Some were able to enter their homes, while others peeked into the windows to see what, if any damage, had been done inside. Floodwaters lapped at mailboxes, street signs and cars that had been left in driveways.

In a bit of good news, officials at a reservoir upriver of the capitol said Sunday that water levels in the reservoir had stabilized, allowing them to send less water downriver. The National Weather Service, which had been anticipating the river would crest Sunday at 38 feet, on Sunday slightly reduced that to 37.5 feet. The river is now anticipated to crest Monday.

But even with that development, officials urged residents to pay attention to evacuation orders, check on road closures before traveling and stay out of floodwaters, warning that even seemingly placid waters could mask fast-moving currents and pollution. Law enforcement officials went door to door telling people to evacuate.

"We expect the river to continue to rise over the next 24 hours or so," Reeves said at a news conference in Jackson. "We are not out of the woods yet."

The heavy rains and flooding has affected a wide area. Mississippi emergency management officials said Sunday that they had received preliminary damage reports from 11 counties connected with the severe weather that began on Feb. 10.

And in Savannah, Tennessee, which sits just below the Pickwick Dam, the Hardin County Fire Department said people were safely evacuated from a two-story home overlooking the Tennessee River before a bluff gave way and the home broke apart, the wreckage sliding hundreds of feet down to the water. Dozens of other homes in more low-lying areas were swamped, the department's drone video showed.

The Pickwick is the next-to-last dam in the TVA's system, and all the water from a river basin stretching into Virginia and Georgia has to flow through it before reaching the Ohio River and then the Mississippi. Water levels behind upstream tributary dams used to contain the flooding have risen as much as 40 feet this month, but even then, the Pickwick was releasing 2.36 million gallons per second Monday, down only slightly from 2.5 million gallons per second Sunday night, Hopson said.

"Mother Nature is really the one in charge — we simply try to manage what Mother Nature gives us, to minimize the impacts along the 652-mile Tennessee River and its thousands of miles of tributaries and streams," Hopson said.

Nearly 2,400 structures across the three Mississippi counties closest to the Pearl River and its Barnett Reservoir — Hinds, Rankin and Madison — could get water indoors or be surrounded by floods, said Malary

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 23 of 64

White, of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

Jackson Mayor Chokwe Lumumba said power had been shut off to 504 residences as a safety precaution, and about 30 people were at a shelter.

The Pearl's highest recorded crest was 43.2 feet on April 17, 1979. The second-highest level occurred May 5, 1983, when the river rose to 39.58 feet.

On Saturday night, officials released water from the nearby Barnett Reservoir to control its levels. They urged residents in northeastern Jackson who live in the flood zone downstream from the reservoir to leave immediately. By Sunday morning, Reeves said the reservoir's inflow and outflow had equalized.

John and Jina Smith had packed up as much as they could and left their home as waters rose Thursday in the suburb of Flowood. They returned on Sunday in their neighbor Dale Frazier's rowboat to check on the damage, then got in their own canoe and rowed away.

"We've been able to stay in here when the water gets up," John Smith said. "But as you've watched it over the years, you know when to get out. It's time to get out this time."

A foot and a half of water was inside his house, Smith said. He'd already been in touch with a contractor and insurance agent to rebuild their home, where he and his wife enjoy sitting on their back porch and watching deer and other wildlife.

"It's going to take a while for us to rebuild, but we are safe, and we're all OK," Jina Smith said.

Once the Pearl River crests Monday, it will take the water three to four days to go down significantly. Part of the reason is that forecasters expect more rain between midday Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

"It will be days before we are out of the woods and waters start to recede," Reeves said.

Rebecca Santana contributed from New Orleans; Warren reported from Atlanta.

## One thing unites establishment Democrats: Fear of Sanders

By STEVE PEOPLES and ALAN FRAM Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A growing number of Democratic lawmakers, union officials, state leaders and party strategists agree that Bernie Sanders is a risky nominee to put up against President Donald Trump. There's less agreement about whether — and how — to stop him.

Critics of the Vermont senator, who has long identified as a democratic socialist, are further than they've ever been from unifying behind a moderate alternative. None of the viable centrists in the race is eager to exit the campaign to clear a path for a candidate to become a clear counter to Sanders. And Sanders is looking to Saturday's Nevada caucuses to post another win that would further his status as an early front-runner.

With fear and frustration rising in the party's establishment wing, a high-stakes math problem is emerging. It could be impossible to blunt Sanders as long as a trio of moderate candidates — former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, former Vice President Joe Biden and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar — stay in the race. And with former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into the swath of states that vote on Super Tuesday, March 3, the effort to stop Sanders will become even more challenging when the campaign goes national next month.

"You see this tremendous angst in the party — 'What are we going to do?'" said Terry McAuliffe, a former Virginia governor who was also chairman of the Democratic National Committee. "We need to unify as fast as we can."

The dynamic is complicated because each of the major moderate candidates has glaring vulnerabilities.

Biden began the campaign as a front-runner, but the aura around his operation took a hit after a fourth-place finish in Iowa gave way to a fifth-place finish in New Hampshire. Buttigieg has proved to be the most effective centrist in raising money from the party's traditional high-dollar donors, which puts him in a strong position to compete in an expensive national contest. But the 38-year-old faces lingering questions about his experience and his ability to win support from black and Latino voters, a challenge that could come into greater focus if Buttigieg loses badly in Nevada and South Carolina.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 24 of 64

Klobuchar is newly emboldened after a third-place finish in New Hampshire, but she too has little support among minority voters and has largely run a bare-bones campaign operation.

"When you have three or four candidates in that same lane, math becomes a problem," said Harold Schaitberger, general president of the International Association of Firefighters and a Biden loyalist, who admits being "disappointed" by Biden's bad performances and Sanders' rise.

Though the opening contests of the primary have only begun, time may quickly run out for a moderate alternative to emerge.

By the end of Super Tuesday, more than one third of all delegates will be awarded. Should Sanders build a significant delegate lead — and his strength in California alone makes that possible — it would be very difficult for any other candidate to catch him in the slew of state-by-state elections that follow based on the way delegates are apportioned.

"We have a lot of good candidates, but in general we're incredibly frustrated that the field hasn't winnowed," said Robert Wolf, a major fundraiser for Barack Obama, who said he has donated money this cycle to more than a dozen Democrats. Sanders is not one of them.

The situation is similar to the Republican primary in 2016, when several anti-Trump alternatives divided their party's moderate vote and allowed Trump to become the nominee despite failing to win a majority of the vote in early primary contests.

There is no significant movement in the works to stop Sanders. And so long as there are a half-dozen viable candidates in the race, it may not matter if there were.

Sanders' team expects his Democratic critics and their allies to intensify their attacks in the coming weeks, although they suggest time may be on their side with Super Tuesday just two weeks away. If Sanders comes out of Super Tuesday with a 100-delegate lead, which is possible based on his popularity in California alone, they believe it would be virtually impossible for anyone to catch up before the party's national convention in July.

Sanders was showing new signs of confidence as he campaigned over the weekend in Nevada ahead of the state's caucuses next Saturday. Rallying supporters in Carson City on Sunday, he declared he could win Nevada, then California and the Democratic nomination and highlighted attempts from his rivals in both parties to stop him.

"I've been attacked by the media establishment, I've been attacked by the corporate establishment, I've been attacked by the Republican establishment, I've been attacked by the Democratic establishment, and they're nervous," Sanders said.

Sanders told The Associated Press last week that he was ramping up his outreach to other lawmakers and party officials who have been skeptical of his White House bid, although he offered no details. The senator has also agreed to host at least two fundraisers for the Democratic National Committee, which he had previously resisted.

Asked about the response he was getting to the establishment outreach, Sanders said: "I think we're going to do just fine."

Yet as Sanders' strength grows in the early voting states, there is no evidence that his standing is improving among the party's skeptical political class. Several elected officials in recent days have raised concerns about his ability to beat Trump and his impact on other Democrats running for election this fall.

The competition for endorsements helps tell the story of the moderate muddle.

Since Biden's underwhelming finish in Iowa, Sanders hasn't received a single congressional endorsement. Buttigieg and Klobuchar, who have shown some strength on the campaign trail, have earned just one congressional endorsement each.

Over that same time, at least seven congressional endorsements have gone to Bloomberg, a 78-year-old former Republican who is threatening to become a top-tier candidate even after skipping all four February primary contests.

Steve Shurtleff, a Biden backer and the speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives, believes Buttigieg and Klobuchar are the new leaders in the party's moderate wing, while Bloomberg is making a case.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 25 of 64

As for Sanders, Shurtleff noted that most New Hampshire voters supported somebody else. Indeed, Sanders won last week's primary with just 26% of the vote, a low bar made possible because his moderate alternatives split up the rest of the electorate.

"It's very crowded in that lane," Shurtleff said. "It's really kind of a conundrum."

Just don't ask any of Sanders' rivals to step aside.

An energized Klobuchar said in an interview that her third-place finish in New Hampshire left her "as scrappy as I was when I started."

She shrugged off any concerns about moderates dividing the vote. And she highlighted her strengths in Nevada, where she and Biden earned the endorsement of the state's largest newspaper and may benefit from the success of female candidates. Both of the state's U.S. senators are women and the state legislature is majority female.

"I don't think it's as simple as two lanes," she said in an interview. "Everyone brings something else to this."

Fram reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro in Washington and Nicholas Riccardi in Carson City, Nevada, contributed to this report.

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

## Disgraced religious order tried to get abuse victim to lie

By NICOLE WINFIELD and MARÍA VERZA Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — The cardinal's response was not what Yolanda Martínez had expected — or could abide. Her son had been sexually abused by a priest of the Legion of Christ, a disgraced religious order. And now she was calling Cardinal Valerio De Paolis -- the Vatican official appointed by the pope to lead the Legion and to clean it up -- to report the settlement the group was offering, and to express her outrage.

The terms: Martínez's family would receive 15,000 euros (\$16,300) from the order. But in return, her son would have to recant the testimony he gave to Milan prosecutors that the priest had repeatedly assaulted him when he was a 12-year-old student at the order's youth seminary in northern Italy. He would have to lie.

The cardinal did not seem shocked. He did not share her indignation.

Instead, he chuckled. He said she shouldn't sign the deal, but should try to work out another agreement without attorneys: "Lawyers complicate things. Even Scripture says that among Christians we should find agreement."

The conversation between the aggrieved mother and Pope Benedict XVI's personal envoy was wire-tapped. The tape — as well as the six-page settlement proposal — are key pieces of evidence in a criminal trial opening next month in Milan. Prosecutors allege that Legion lawyers and priests tried to obstruct justice, and extort Martínez's family by offering them money to recant testimony to prosecutors in hopes of quashing a criminal investigation into the abusive priest, Vladimir Reséndiz Gutiérrez.

Lawyers for the five suspects declined to comment. The Legion says they have professed innocence. A spokesman said that at the time, the Legion didn't have in place the uniform child protection policies and guidelines that are now mandatory across the order.

De Paolis is beyond earthly justice — he died in 2017 and there is no evidence he knew of, or approved, the settlement offer before it was made. But the tape and documents seized when police raided the Legion's headquarters in 2014 show that he had turned a blind eye to superiors who protected pedophiles.

In addition, the evidence shows that when De Paolis first learned about Reséndiz's crimes in 2011, he approved an in-house canonical investigation but didn't report the priest to police. And when he learned two years later that other Legion priests were apparently trying to impede the criminal investigation into his crimes, the pope's delegate didn't report that either.

And a few hours after he spoke with Martínez, De Paolis opened the Legion's 2014 assembly where he

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 26 of 64

formally ended the mandate given to him by Benedict to reform and purify the religious order. The Legion had been “cured and cleaned,” he said.

In fact, his mission hadn’t really been accomplished.

Benedict had entrusted De Paolis, one of the Vatican’s most respected canon lawyers, to turn the Legion around in 2010, after revelations that its founder, the late Rev. Marcial Maciel, had raped his seminarians, fathered three children and built a cult-like order to hide his crimes.

There had been calls for the Vatican to suppress the Legion. But Benedict decided against it, apparently determining in part that the order was too big and too rich to fail. Instead, he opted for a process of reform, giving De Paolis the broadest possible powers to rebuild the Legion from the ground up and saying it must undergo a profound process of “purification” and “renewal.”

But De Paolis refused from the start to remove any of Maciel’s old guard, who remain in power today. He refused to investigate the cover-up of Maciel’s crimes. He refused to reopen old allegations of abuse by other priests, even when serial rapists remained in the Legion’s ranks, unpunished.

More generally, he did not come to grips with the order’s deep-seated culture of sexual abuse, cover-up and secrecy — and its long record of avoiding law enforcement and dismissing, discrediting and silencing victims. As a result, even onetime Legion supporters now openly question his reform, which was dismissed as ineffective by the Legion’s longtime critics.

“They always try to control victims, minimize them, defame them, accuse them of exaggerating things,” said Alberto Athié, a former Mexican priest who has campaigned for more than 20 years on behalf of clergy sexual abuse victims, including victims of the Legion.

“Then, if they don’t achieve that level of control, they go to the next level, looking for their parents, trying to minimize them or buy them off, silence them. And if that doesn’t work, they go to trial and try to do what they can to win the case,” he said.

Now, victims of these other Legion priests are coming forward in droves with stories of sexual, psychological and spiritual abuse, and how the Legion’s culture of secrecy and cover-up has remained intact.

“They say they’re close to the victims and help their families,” Martínez told The Associated Press at her home in Milan. “My testimony is this didn’t happen.”

Martínez, a 54-year-old mother of three, chokes up when she recalls the day she received the phone call from her son’s psychologist. It was March of 2013, and her eldest son had been receiving therapy on the advice of his high school girlfriend. Martínez thought she was about to learn that she would be a grandmother; she thought her boy had gotten the girl pregnant.

Instead, Dr. Gian Piero Guidetti told Martínez and her husband that during therapy, their son had revealed that he had been repeatedly sexually molested by Reséndiz starting in 2008, when he was a middle schooler at the Legion’s youth seminary in Gozzano, near Italy’s border with Switzerland. Guidetti, himself a priest, told them he was required by his medical profession to report the crime to prosecutors.

His complaint, and the testimony of Martínez’s son, sparked a criminal investigation that resulted in Reséndiz’s 2019 conviction, which was upheld on appeal in January. Reséndiz, 43, who was convicted in absentia and is believed to be living in his native Mexico, has until the end of March to appeal the conviction and 6 1/2-year prison sentence to Italy’s highest court. (Efforts by The Associated Press to reach his lawyer were unsuccessful.)

The investigation, however, netted evidence that went far beyond Reséndiz’s own wrongdoing. Documents seized by police and seen by AP in the court file showed a pattern of cover-up by the Legion and the pope’s envoy that stretched from Milan to Mexico, the Vatican to Venezuela and points in between.

Personnel files, for example, made clear Reséndiz was known to the Legion as a risk even when he was a teenage seminarian in the 1990s, yet he was ordained a priest anyway in 2006 and immediately sent to oversee young boys at the Gozzano youth seminary.

“He’s a boy with strong sexual impulses and low capacity to control them,” Reséndiz’s novice director, the Rev. Antonio León Santacruz, wrote in an internal assessment on Jan. 9, 1994. “Given his psychologi-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 27 of 64

cal character, he's inclined to not respect rules without great difficulty and the psychologist thinks it will be difficult for him to undertake consecrated life given he has little respect for rules. He follows them as long as he's being watched, but as soon as he can, he breaks them and has no remorse."

A year later, on Reséndiz's 19th birthday, the seminarian wrote a letter to Maciel -- addressing it as all Legionaries addressed the man they regarded as a living saint: "Nuestro Padre," "Our Father."

"I'm having various problems in the field of purity and the truth is I'm having a hard time, because temptations are coming to me," he wrote. "I'm praying to the Holy Virgin every day for grace and asking her for strength to not offend again; I say again because I have had the disgrace of falling, but with the help of God I will fight to form that pure, priestly heart."

When Martínez saw such letters in the court file, her heart fell.

"My son wasn't even born yet," she said. "How can you put someone like that in charge of a seminary?"

A Legion spokesman, the Rev. Aaron Smith, said the Legion has overhauled its training process for seminarians since Reséndiz's era, applying more scrutiny before ordination.

"Things are different today," he said in emailed response to questions.

While Milan prosecutors first heard about Reséndiz's pedophilia in March 2013 when the therapist reported it, the crimes were old news to both the Vatican and the Legion.

The Legion has admitted it received a first report of abuse by Reséndiz on March 6, 2011, from another boy who had been a student at Gozzano. The Legion says that boy, an Austrian, had first told a Legion priest of Reséndiz's abuse. That priest recommended he report it to a church ombudsman's office in Austria that receives abuse complaints, which he did, Smith said.

Separately, the Legion got wind of another possible victim in Venezuela, where Reséndiz had been sent from Gozzano in 2008, after he abused Martínez's son.

Italian police were never informed by the Legion or the Vatican. Neither the Vatican nor Italy requires clergy to report suspected child sex abuse.

When police finally did get wind of the case in March 2013, they uncovered elaborate efforts to keep Reséndiz's crimes quiet. According to one email seized by Italian police — written March 16, 2011, or 10 days after the Austrian claim was first received by the order — a Legion lawyer recommended to one of the Legion's senior behind-the-scenes bureaucrats, the Rev. Gabriel Sotres, that a Legion priest visit with the victim in Austria.

The aim of the visit, prosecutors wrote in summarizing the email exchanges, "was to speak to the (victim's) older brother and convince him to not tell their parents and not go to police because this could cause serious problems not only for the Legion but also Father Vladimir, all the other priests involved and the victim and his family."

Smith, the Legion spokesman, didn't deny the prosecutors' account but said that "encouraging a child to keep something from their parents or guardians is contrary to our code of conduct."

Later in 2011, the Legion arranged for Reséndiz to be transferred from Venezuela to Colombia, and prepared a legal strategy to limit the possible damage if the Venezuelan case escalated. The emails were sent to several Legion leaders, including Sotres, who remain in top positions today. In fact, in the Legion's current leadership assembly under way in Rome to choose new superiors and priorities, at least 13 of the 89 participating priests or their substitutes were involved in some way in dealing with the Reséndiz scandal, fallout and cover-up, including two priests who are defendants in the upcoming Milan trial.

According to the seized emails, the plan proposed by a Legion lawyer involved reporting only Reséndiz's name to Venezuelan police to comply with local reporting laws, leaving out that he was a priest, that he was accused of a sex crime against a child, and the name of the Legion, prosecutors said in summarizing the emails. The report would also note that he no longer lived in Venezuela.

The Legion has said Reséndiz was removed from priestly ministry and from his work with young people in Venezuela within days of receiving the initial Austrian report.

But the emails seized indicate that the restrictions weren't necessarily enforced: One from Dec. 20, 2012,

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 28 of 64

suggests that Reséndiz was hearing confessions in schools and celebrating Mass in Colombia, news that prompted the leadership to ultimately recommend he be sent for psychological counseling in Mexico and later assigned to an administrative position "where they don't know his situation."

Eventually, as part of the church's in-house investigation, Reséndiz confessed — but only to the Legion and Vatican authorities, and only about other boys he abused, not Martínez's son.

"I sincerely recognize my terrible behavior as a priest," he wrote the Vatican official in charge of the sex crimes office in 2012, Cardinal Gerhard Mueller. "Truly I lived in hell when these sad facts occurred. I recognize the gravity of the acts that I committed and I humbly ask the church for forgiveness for these sad and painful facts. I can't understand how it could have happened, and I recognize that I lacked the courage to admit to the problem and advise my superiors of the danger."

The Vatican defrocked him on April 5, 2013 -- just a few weeks after Italian prosecutors first heard about Martínez's son.

By October of that year, the Legion was nearing the end of De Paolis' mandate and clearly wanted to avoid the possibility that the Reséndiz case could explode publicly and jeopardize the plan to resume their independence from the Vatican.

Martínez and her family, for their part, were coping with the trauma of her son's abuse.

"He would have nightmares. He wouldn't let me touch him ...," Martínez said. "He couldn't stand anyone being close to him."

Once, he was even prevented from throwing himself in front of a subway train.

Martínez had been in regular touch with the Legion priest closest to the family, the Rev. Luca Gallizia, her husband's spiritual director. He was serving as the family's contact with the Legion, after all other priests and members of Martínez's Regnum Christi social circle severed contact -- apparently on orders from the leadership.

Gallizia traveled to Milan to meet with Martínez on Oct. 18, 2013, bringing a proposed settlement to compensate the family. They met in a room off the parish playground of the Sant'Eustorgio basilica where Martínez worked.

When Martínez read it later that night with her husband, she was shocked.

"It was a second violation, because for all intents and purposes in that letter, they asked us to deny the facts. And for us it was a stab in the back because it was brought to us by our spiritual father. ... He knew everything about us, because my husband confided in him. And that made it even more painful."

The Legion declined to comment on the proposed settlement, citing the upcoming trial.

The document the Legion wanted Martínez's family to sign states that her son ruled out having been sexually abused by Reséndiz and regardless didn't remember. It said he denied having any phone or text message contact with him, and that his ensuing problems were due to the fact that he left the seminary and was having trouble integrating socially into his new public high school.

The document set out payments for the son's continuing education and therapy and required "absolute" secrecy. If the family were called to testify, they were to make the same declarations as contained in the settlement -- denying the abuse.

A few months later, the Legion realized it had erred in leaving the proposal with Martínez and proposed a revised settlement acknowledging the abuse occurred. Now, though, it required the family to pay back double the 15,000 euro (\$16,300) settlement offer if they violated the confidentiality agreement.

It was then that Martínez called De Paolis.

"Both my lawyer and I, our jaws dropped," she told the Vatican cardinal.

The pope's envoy said he was surprised as well.

"Yes, but this, this is how it's done in Italy," he said.

The mother would have none of it. "It's not a very nice agreement, signing a lie," Martínez told the cardinal. "Aside from the fact that I don't want any money, I'm not signing the letter."

María Verza contributed to this story from Mexico City.

## Virus fears rise after Cambodia's acceptance of cruise ship

By SOPHENG CHEANG, EILEEN NG, and GRANT PECK Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — The feel-good story of how Cambodia allowed a cruise ship to dock after it was turned away elsewhere in Asia for fear of spreading the deadly virus that began in China has taken an unfortunate turn after a passenger released from the ship tested positive for the virus.

News over the weekend that an 83-year-old American woman who was on the ship and flew from Cambodia to Malaysia was found to be carrying the virus froze further movement of the passengers and crew of the MS Westerdam. Some are now in hotels in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, while others are still aboard the ship.

The American woman was among several hundred passengers who were flown out of Cambodia on Friday and Saturday. According to authorities in Malaysia, 143 continued their flights home from that country, while the woman and her 84-year-old husband, who was diagnosed with pneumonia, remained behind for treatment.

The virus has infected more than 71,000 people globally and killed more than 1,770, with the vast majority of the cases in China, where the outbreak began two months ago.

The dispersal around the world of passengers from the ship with possible exposure to the virus has sparked concern.

"I think now given that there is a confirmed case that is suspected to have acquired infection on board the ship, the other passengers should be asked to quarantine themselves at home and alert health authorities if they develop fever or respiratory symptoms within the 14 days since disembarkation," said Professor Benjamin Cowling from the School of Public Health at Hong Kong University.

Dr. Gagandeep Kang, executive director of India's Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, said it is unclear whether the woman's infection would result in an outbreak in another part of the world.

"We will have to wait and see," she said, adding that it would depend on where the woman got the infection, and at what stage of the infection she was in while in contact with other people.

The ship's operator, Holland America Line, said in a statement Monday that Cambodian health officials were on board the ship testing the 255 guests and 747 crew who were awaiting clearance, and that guests currently staying at a Phnom Penh hotel had all been tested.

"At this time, no other guests or crew on board or at the hotel have reported any symptoms of the illness. Guests who have already returned home will be contacted by their local health department and provided further information," it said.

The statement pointed out that the American woman who tested positive in Malaysia was not one of the 20 people on board the Westerdam who had reported to the ship's medical center during the cruise. All of those 20 have tested negative for the virus, it said.

The rest of the passengers and crew had health checks that included filling out a written health questionnaire and having their temperatures checked, which has become standard procedure for air and sea passengers considered at risk.

Several Westerdam passengers from the United States and elsewhere have already returned home and spoken to the media.

Two of the passengers, Joseph Schaeffer and his wife, Paulette, a retired nurse, told the Las Vegas Review-Journal from their home in Henderson, Nevada, that they felt the hue and cry over the released passengers was not totally merited.

"It doesn't seem to me that the whole world should be jumping at this," Joseph Schaeffer said.

"There are more deaths from the flu than there have been from this particular virus," his wife said.

The couple said they were screened on their way home at airports in Phnom Penh and Singapore by thermal scanners that remotely monitor arriving passengers.

On arrival in Los Angeles, they said, they were among a large crowd getting screened that included fellow cruise passengers. They said they answered questions given by someone from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that included whether they felt sick, had visited mainland China or knew anyone

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 30 of 64

who had contracted the virus.

Two Canadians who returned via Vancouver International Airport were asked to put on protective face masks on arrival but were not otherwise isolated, Canada's CBC News reported.

"We were asked a few questions and filled out an immigration form, and they very nicely helped us bypass the usual lineups and let us out the door," said Joseph Hansen, who took the cruise with his wife. "We're feeling fine."

Hansen, from Surrey, British Columbia, told CBC that he did not hear about the American woman in Malaysia with the virus until he landed in Vancouver on Sunday.

"I guess on the one hand it's upsetting to know that there was one case, but we're feeling fine," he said. "We've had health scans, temperature scans and we don't have any concerns for our own health."

Cambodia's government had originally earned kudos from the head of the U.N.'s World Health Organization and the U.S. ambassador there for allowing the ship to dock at the port at Sihanoukville on the Gulf of Thailand after being turned away by Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Guam and Thailand.

The move was seen as a victory for the image of Cambodia's authoritarian prime minister, Hun Sen, who welcomed the ship's passengers with handshakes and flowers. He boasted that although Cambodia is a poor country, it "has always joined the international community to solve the problems that the world and our region are facing."

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus had said he was pleased Cambodia had agreed to accept the Westerdam and described it as an example of the international solidarity advocated by the U.N. health agency.

"The one thing I can say is we're very, very grateful that Cambodia has opened literally its ports and its doors to people in need," U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia W. Patrick Murphy said Saturday when he took his family to the port to meet passengers. "We think this sends a strong message. We all have to help each other."

In hindsight, however, Cambodia's handling of the ship's passengers has been criticized on social media, though it also has gotten some support.

According to Cowling, the Hong Kong University professor, it's a good idea to let passengers leave and monitor them after disembarkation.

Since there were no known cases on board the Westerdam at the time passengers left the ship, it was reasonable to allow them to travel home, he said.

"I think it would not be appropriate to keep passengers on the ship for 14 days, as it could be a high-risk environment," Cowling said.

"We have seen the consequences of holding passengers on a cruise ship with the Diamond Princess outbreak," he said, referring to another cruise ship that is quarantined in Yokohama, Japan, with hundreds of cases among the passengers.

---

Ng reported from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Peck reported from Bangkok. Associated Press writer Aniruddha Ghosal in New Delhi contributed to this report.

## Syria military hails advance against rebels in 'record time'

By ALBERT AJI Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syria's military announced on Monday that its troops have regained control of territories in northwestern Syria "in record time," vowing to continue to chase armed groups "wherever they are."

The announcement came hours after troops consolidated the government's hold over the key Aleppo province, capturing over 30 villages and hamlets in the western countryside in a single day and securing the provincial capital that had for years remained within range of opposition fire.

Troops were removing barriers and roadblocks on Monday in villages and districts that were earlier controlled by Syrian rebels, state TV reported. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights,

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 31 of 64

a war monitoring group, reported clashes in Jabal Sheik Akeel, northwest of the city of Aleppo, the provincial capital.

Rescuers and a medical aid worker said airstrikes Monday on Darat Izza, a town still in opposition hands in northwestern Aleppo, put two health facilities out of service. One hospital was directly hit, wounding two staffers, said Mazen Kewara of the Syrian American Medical Society, a group that supports the hospital's dialysis unit. Footage from the rescue team, Syrian Civil Defense, showed extensive damage. Another airstrike hit close by the other medical facility, some 150 meters (yards) away.

Syrian rebels were driven out of the city's eastern quarters in late 2016, which they had controlled for years while battling government forces in charge in the western section. However, rebel groups continued to target government forces from outside the city with mortar rounds. They also controlled large parts of western rural Aleppo, territories that linked them to Idlib province, the opposition's last major stronghold.

The new advances, along with securing a key highway that ran through rebel territory, are set to facilitate movement between northern and southern Syria, including the city of Aleppo, Syria's commercial center before the war.

The Shaam Network, an opposition media platform, said the advances cut the rebels' supply line, effectively driving them out of the area.

The developments sparked late night celebrations in the city, with state media showing images of residents waving flags and dancing in the streets packed with vehicles.

Since December, Syrian troops have been on the offensive, biting bit by bit at the crowded rebel enclave, home to over 3 million people. The offensive displaced more than 800,000 people, sparking one of the largest humanitarian crisis in the nine-year war.

Gen. Ali Mayhoub, spokesman for the Syrian Armed Forces, said in a televised speech that Syrian troops were continuing their ground advances to "eradicate what is left of terrorist groups" in Syria, congratulating the soldiers for the swift advances in "record time."

The armed opposition is now squeezed into a shrinking area of nearby Idlib province, where the government is also on the offensive, as well as the sliver of adjacent territory in western Aleppo. Also, parts of northern Aleppo region, which straddles the border with Turkey, is administered by Turkey and allied Syrian factions. Another segment of the province further west is controlled by Kurdish-led forces, allied with the United States. Those two parts have not been part of the government offensive.

Turkey, which backs the opposition, has sent thousands of troops and equipment into the opposition enclave, in an attempt to stall the Syrian government's advance. Ankara has also called for an end to the Syrian government offensive. Already home to more than 3.5 million Syrian refugees, Turkey fears a new wave may overwhelm its borders. The United Nations has also called for a cease-fire.

Support from Russia and Iran has enabled Syrian troops to regain control of much of the territories they had lost to armed groups who worked to topple Assad.

Over 400,000 people have been killed and half of Syria's population displaced since peaceful protests in 2011 turned into a civil war.

---

Associated Press writer Sarah El Deeb in Beirut contributed to this report.

## Portugal leaders rally around racially abused soccer player

By BARRY HATTON Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — The president and the prime minister of Portugal added their voices to a national outcry Monday over racist abuse aimed at a black FC Porto soccer player who walked off the field after hearing monkey chants.

Prime Minister Antonio Costa said the incident was "unacceptable" and urged police and soccer authorities to make an example of those responsible by handing down tough punishment.

Costa also wrote on his Twitter account that "all and any acts of racism are a crime and are intolerable." "No human being should be subjected to this humiliation," wrote Costa, whose father was from Mozam-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 32 of 64

bique. "We cannot just stand by."

President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa said he "vehemently condemns any display of racism."

"Portugal's Constitution very clearly condemns racism, as well as any other forms of xenophobia and discrimination," he said.

Moussa Marega, a striker from Mali, was visibly angered by monkey noises targeting him after he scored Porto's second goal in a 2-1 win at Guimarães in the Portuguese league on Sunday. Several Porto and opposition players attempted to dissuade him from walking off the field in the 71st minute, when he demanded to be substituted.

Marega wrote on his Instagram account that "idiots" went to the stadium to shout racist insults.

He also lashed out at the referee, who gave Marega a yellow card, apparently for his refusal to continue playing. He said the referee should have defended him from the insults.

The dramatic scenes as Marega pulled away from his teammates and stormed off the field were unprecedented in Portugal. The country has not witnessed the growth of far-right political parties or movements seen elsewhere in Europe in recent years. Television channels and radio stations on Monday dedicated phone-in programs to the incident.

It was the latest racist incident to tarnish soccer in Europe, despite widespread condemnation and efforts to stop it from officials involved in the game and in keeping public order.

Porto coach Sergio Conceicao said he and his club felt "outraged" by the racism, adding that the monkey chants began during the pre-game warm-up.

"We are a family, whatever our nationality, skin color, height, hair color," he said. "What happened here was pitiful."

FC Porto said in a statement it stood by Marega, adding it "was compelled to take drastic action" after repeated racist slurs during the game. The club said the insults were "a low point in the recent history of Portuguese soccer and must be punished appropriately."

The Portuguese league said the behavior of some fans in the stadium "shame soccer and human dignity." It said in a statement that Marega "could no longer bear the insults targeted at him and chose to leave the game."

The league will do everything in its power to impose punishments and stamp out racism, the statement said.

Portuguese police said in a statement they were not immediately able to identify who hurled the abuse at Marega inside the stadium because of the large crowd. However, officers were investigating Monday, reportedly including sifting through closed-circuit TV images taken inside the stadium.

Racist insults and threats carry a prison sentence of up to five years in prison.

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

## GM plans to pull out of Australia, New Zealand and Thailand

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors decision to pull out of Australia, New Zealand and Thailand as part of a strategy to exit markets that don't produce adequate returns on investments raised dismay Monday from officials concerned over job losses.

The company said in a statement Sunday that it plans to wind down sales, engineering and design operations for its historic Holden brand in Australia and New Zealand in 2021. It also plans to sell its Rayong factory in Thailand to China's Great Wall Motors and withdraw the Chevrolet brand from Thailand by the end of this year.

"This is a very disappointing outcome," said Karen Andrews, Australia's minister for Industry, Science and Technology. She said it was unfortunate both because about 500 workers would lose their jobs, but also because "they only advised the government of this decision just before the announcement."

Dave Smith of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union also expressed chagrin.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 33 of 64

Workers at Holden had thought they'd "been through the worst of it, and that's not the case," Smith said. "For many of them their long-term workers have been very loyal to the company ... they've loved being part of the car industry, and now, it was such an iconic brand coming to an end; it'll mean an end to their jobs."

GM has 828 employees in Australia and New Zealand and another 1,500 in Thailand, the company said. In Thailand, the decision to sell GM's plant in Rayong, south of Bangkok, may well end up being good news for workers there.

Great Wall Motors, a major maker of sport utility vehicles and pickups, said it intends to expand in Southeast Asia using the plant in Thailand as its base.

"We will also promote the development of the local supply chain, research and development and related industries, plus contribute more to the exchequer of both the local Rayong and Thailand governments," Great Wall's vice president for global strategy, Liu Xiangshang.

Thailand is still determined to be the "Detroit of Asia," Krichanont Iyapunya, a spokesman for the Ministry of Industry said. He said plant closures and openings happen constantly.

"The automobile industry must be adaptive," Krichanont said.

Liu, of Great Wall Motors, said the Thai expansion was part of the company's global push, following the launch of a plant in Tula in Russia in 2019 and plans to acquire GM's Talegaon plant in India.

GM has struggled in Asia in the past year. Its International Operations, which include China, lost \$200 million last year, including \$100 million in the fourth quarter. It analyzed the business case for future production at the Rayong plant, but low utilization of its capacity and low sales volumes "made continued GM production at the site unsustainable," the company said.

GM's CEO, Mary Barra, said the company wants to focus on markets where it can drive strong returns, scaling back operations in Australia, New Zealand and Thailand to selling niche specialty vehicles. GM will support its employees and customers in the transition, she said.

GM is making the same moves in Japan, Russia and Europe, where "we don't have significant scale," she said.

"We are pursuing a niche presence by selling profitable high-end imported vehicles supported by a lean GM structure," International Operations Senior Vice President Julian Blissett said in the statement.

GM said it will honor all warranties in the markets, and it will continue to provide service and parts. Local operations also will handle recalls and any safety-related issues, the company said.

The Detroit automaker expects to take \$1.1 billion worth of cash and noncash charges this year as it cuts operations in the three countries.

GM has a long history in Australia with the Holden brand, where cars were designed and sold in the U.S. and other markets. The 2008 and 2009 Pontiac G8 muscle car, for instance, was designed as a Holden Commodore and built in Australia. But Holden's market share, which was nearly 22% in 2002, fell to just over 4% last year.

GM President Mark Reuss, who once ran the Australian operations, said the company explored options to continue Holden, "but none could overcome the challenges of the investments needed for the highly fragmented right-hand-drive market, the economics to support growing the brand, and delivering an appropriate return on investment," he said in the statement.

---

AP Business Writer Elaine Kurtenbach and reporter Preeyapa Temcharoen in Bangkok contributed.

## Rain postpones Daytona 500, dampening event, Trump's visit

By JENNA FRYER AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The Daytona 500 has been postponed by rain for the first time since 2012, dampening NASCAR's season opener that started with a ballyhooed visit from President Donald Trump.

The race was postponed after two lengthy delays totaling more than three hours. The race will now begin at 4 p.m. Monday and be broadcast live on Fox.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 34 of 64

It's the second time in 62 years that "The Great American Race" will finish on a Monday.

The first delay of the day came moments after the presidential motorcade completed a ceremonial parade lap around the 2 1/2-mile track. Trump's armored limousine nicknamed "The Beast" exited Daytona International Speedway, and the sky opened for a brief shower that forced drivers back to pit road.

The start already had been pushed back 13 minutes to accommodate Trump's trip. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. eventually led the field to the green flag and was out front for the first 20 laps before heavier rain soaked a racing surface that takes hours to dry.

NASCAR called drivers back to their cars around 6:40 p.m. EST, hoping to get more laps in before more showers hit again. Some drivers showed, but the heaviest rain of the day forced a postponement.

It no doubt choked some of the excitement out of an event that had been a raucous celebration for hours, some of it prompted by Trump's dramatic entrance. Thousands cheered as Air Force One performed a flyover and landed at Daytona International Airport a few hundred yards behind the track. Trump's motorcade arrived a few minutes later, eliciting another loud ovation. Both entrances were broadcast on giant video boards around the superspeedway.

At least a dozen drivers were escorted from the pre-race meeting to a private introduction with Trump. "I got to meet the president! How cool is that?" driver Aric Almirola said.

Trump served as the grand marshal for the Daytona 500 and gave the command for drivers to start their engines. Trump, with first lady Melania Trump by his side, addressed the crowd and called the opener "a legendary display of roaring engines, soaring spirits and the American skill, speed and power that we've been hearing about for so many years."

"For 500 heart-pounding miles, these fierce competitors will chase the checkered flag, fight for the Harley J. Earl trophy and make their play for pure American glory," Trump said. "That's what it is: pure, American glory."

Trump and his wife then got in the limousine and turned a lap. They avoided the high-banked turns at Daytona and stayed on the apron through the corners.

The president's visit was widely welcomed by NASCAR fans. Trump 2020 flags flooded the infield, and some fans wore them as capes in the garage area.

His presence also created huge lines at entrances, with many fans complaining while waiting hours to get through security.

Former NASCAR chairman and CEO Brian France, who was replaced following his August 2018 arrest on DUI charges, was on Air Force One with the president and first lady. They traveled from West Palm Beach.

Among those who met them at the airport: current NASCAR chairman Jim France and fellow top executives Lesa France Kennedy and Ben Kennedy.

More AP auto racing: <https://apnews.com/apf-AutoRacing> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## China may postpone annual congress because of virus

By YANAN WANG Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China said Monday it may postpone its annual congress in March, its biggest political meeting of the year, as the military dispatched hundreds more medical workers and extra supplies to the city hit hardest by a 2-month-old virus outbreak.

Japanese officials, meanwhile, confirmed 99 more people were infected by the new virus aboard the quarantined cruise ship Diamond Princess, bringing the total to 454.

The standing committee for the National People's Congress said it believes it is necessary to postpone the gathering to give top priority to people's lives, safety and health, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

It noted that one-third of the 3,000 delegates are provincial and municipal-level cadres with important leadership roles working on the front line of the battle against the epidemic.

The standing committee said it would meet on Feb. 24 to further deliberate on a postponement. The meeting is due to start on March 5.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 35 of 64

Health authorities reported 2,048 new cases of the virus and 105 more deaths. Another 10,844 people have recovered from COVID-19, a disease caused by the new coronavirus, and have been discharged from hospitals, according to Monday's figures. The death toll is 1,770.

With fears of the virus spreading further, Chinese and residents of nearby countries and territories have begun hoarding supplies of everything from masks and other personal protective gear to instant noodles, cooking oil and toilet paper.

In Hong Kong, local media reported that police had arrested two men and were seeking three others who allegedly stole a load of 60 packs of toilet paper at knifepoint early Monday morning. Supplies of the commodity have become extremely scarce, with often only low-quality imports still available. Police were expected to discuss the matter later.

Another 1,200 doctors and nurses from China's military began arriving in Wuhan on Monday, the latest contingent sent to help shore up the city's overwhelmed health care system with more than 32,000 additional personnel. The city has rapidly built two prefabricated hospitals and converted gymnasiums and other spaces into wards for those showing milder symptoms, but residents still say they are being wait-listed for beds and even ambulance rides.

Wuhan has accounted for the vast majority of mainland China's 70,548 cases. Some 60 million people in that area and other parts of China are under lockdown in a bid to prevent the virus from spreading further.

At a daily news briefing, National Health Commission official Guo Yanhong said attempts to contain the virus appeared to be bearing fruit, with the number of new cases reported daily outside of Hubei province, of which Wuhan is the capital, falling for 13 days straight, and growing numbers of recovered people.

"These are all extremely good signs that show our prevention work is very effective," Guo said, citing early detection and treatment alongside quarantines and travel restrictions as largely responsible for the result.

Japan's Health Ministry has been carrying out tests on passengers and crew on the Diamond Princess, which is docked in Yokohama, a port city near Tokyo. Officials said they Monday they had confirmed 99 more cases on the ship, bringing the total to 454. The 14-day quarantine for those on the ship was due to end Wednesday.

Outside China, the ship has the largest number of cases of COVID-19.

The Health Ministry said it has now tested 1,723 people on the ship, which had about 3,700 passengers and crew aboard.

Two chartered planes flew 340 Americans who were aboard the Diamond Princess out of Japan late Sunday. About 380 Americans had been on the ship.

The State Department announced later that 14 of the evacuees were confirmed to have the virus in tests given before they boarded their planes. They were taken to the U.S. because they did not have symptoms, and were being isolated from other passengers, it said.

Australia, Canada, Hong Kong and Italy were planning similar flights for their citizens.

New cases in other countries are raising more concern about containment of the virus. Though only a few hundred cases have been confirmed outside mainland China, some recent cases lacked obvious connections to China.

Taiwan on Sunday reported its first death from COVID-19, the fifth fatality outside of mainland China. Taiwan's Central News Agency, citing health minister Chen Shih-chung, said the man who died was in his 60s and had not traveled overseas recently and had no known contact with virus patients.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe convened an experts meeting to discuss containment measures in his country, where more than a dozen cases have emerged in the past few days without any obvious link to China.

"The situation surrounding this virus is changing by the minute," Abe said.

Japanese Health Minister Katsunobu Kato said the country was "entering into a phase that is different from before," requiring new steps to stop the spread of the virus.

Japan has 518 confirmed cases, including the 454 from the cruise ship, and one death from the virus.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 36 of 64

## Trading quarantines, Americans from cruise land in US

By The Associated Press Associated Press

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — Two charter flights carrying cruise ship passengers from Japan landed at military bases in California and Texas overnight, starting the clock on a quarantine period to ensure passengers don't have the new virus that's been spreading in Asia.

A plane carrying American passengers touched down at Travis Air Force Base in Northern California just before 11:30 p.m. Sunday, local time. A second flight arrived at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas around 2 1/2 hours later, early Monday.

Japan's Defense Minister Taro Kono had tweeted earlier that Japanese troops helped transport 340 U.S. passengers on 14 buses from Yokohama port to Tokyo's Haneda airport. About 380 Americans were on the cruise ship.

The U.S. said it arranged the evacuation because people on the Diamond Princess were at a high risk of exposure to the virus. For the departing Americans, the evacuation cuts short a 14-day quarantine that began aboard the cruise ship Feb. 5.

The State Department announced later that 14 of the evacuees received confirmed they had the virus but were allowed to board the flight because they did not have symptoms. They were being isolated separately from other passengers on the flight, the U.S. State and Health and Human Services said in a joint statement.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, said Sunday that an infected person who shows minimal symptoms could still pass the virus to someone else.

After arriving in the U.S., all of the passengers must go through another 14 days of quarantine at the military facilities — meaning they will have been under quarantine for a total of nearly four weeks.

Australia, Canada, Hong Kong and Italy were planning similar flights of passengers. Other governments, including Canada and Hong Kong, also will require the passengers to undergo a second 14-day quarantine.

Japan on Monday announced another 99 infections on the Diamond Princess, raising the ship's total number of cases to 454. Overall, Japan has 419 confirmed cases of the virus, including one death. The United States has confirmed 15 cases within the country. Separately, one U.S. citizen died in China.

Americans Cheryl and Paul Molesky, a couple from Syracuse, New York, opted to trade one coronavirus quarantine for another, leaving the cruise ship to fly back to the U.S. Cheryl Molesky said the rising number of patients on the ship factored into the decision.

"We are glad to be going home," Cheryl Molesky earlier told NHK TV in Japan. "It's just a little bit disappointing that we'll have to go through quarantine again, and we will probably not be as comfortable as the Diamond Princess, possibly."

She sent The Associated Press a video of her and her husband boarding the plane with other Americans.

"Well, we're exhausted, but we're on the plane and that's a good feeling. Pretty miserable wearing these masks though, and everybody had to go to the bathroom on the bus," she said.

Some American passengers said they would pass up the opportunity to fly to the United States because of the additional quarantine. There also was worry about being on a long flight with other passengers who may be infected or in an incubation period.

One of the Americans, Matthew Smith, said in a tweet Sunday that he saw a passenger with no face mask talking at close quarters with another passenger. He said he and his wife scurried away.

"If there are secondary infections on board, this is why," he said. "And you wanted me to get on a bus with her?"

He said the American health officials who visited their room was apparently surprised that the couple had decided to stay, and wished them luck.

"Thanks, but we're fine," Smith said he told them.

---

This story has been corrected to show the first flight landed in California at 11:30 p.m. Sunday, not 2:30

a.m. Monday.

Associated Press journalists Mari Yamaguchi, Yuri Kageyama and Emily Wang in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Read more about the coronavirus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak>

## **Afghan refugees tell UN: 'We need peace, land to go home'**

**By KATHY GANNON Associated Press**

KABOBAYAN CAMP, Pakistan (AP) — Hukam Khan isn't sure how old he is, but his beard is long and white, and when he came to Pakistan 40 years ago fleeing an earlier war in Afghanistan, his children were small, stuffed onto the backs of donkeys and dragged across rugged mountains to the safety of northwestern Pakistan.

Back then the war was against the former Soviet Union and Khan was among more than 5 million Afghans forced to become refugees in Pakistan, driven from their homes by a bombing campaign so brutal it was referred to as a "scorched earth" policy.

After four decades of war and conflict, more than 1.5 million Afghans still live as refugees in Pakistan, feeling abandoned by their own government, increasingly unwelcome in their reluctant host country and ignored by the United Nations.

Now, for the first time in years, there's a faint possibility they might eventually return home. The United States and the Taliban appear to have inched closer to a peace deal, agreeing as a first step to a temporary "reduction in violence."

If that truce should hold, the next step could be a long-sought-after agreement between Washington and the Taliban to end Afghanistan's current war, now in its 19th year. The agreement would return American troops home and start negotiations between the warring Afghans to bring peace to their shattered country.

Against the backdrop of a possible peace deal, Pakistan is hosting a conference Monday, attended by U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, and meant to recognize 40 years of Afghans living as refugees.

"It is a terrible war ... and it needs to be brought to an end," Khalilzad, who brokered the breakthrough with the Taliban, said at the conference. "We've made progress in the sense that we ... are talking about the reduction of violence leading to the signing of an agreement between the United States and the Taliban that will open the door to Afghans sitting across the table, one side by the government of Afghanistan and on the other by the Taliban of Afghanistan."

Also attending the conference is U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, whose job would be to help the Afghans return home.

It won't be easy.

Many refugees have already tried going back — lured by promises of help and hope from the international community and from Afghan President Ashraf Ghani — only to find there was neither food nor shelter for them. Many also discovered they were no longer welcome in the villages they had left decades earlier.

Disillusioned, they returned to Pakistan and to Iran, while tens of thousands of other Afghans paid smugglers and risked their lives to escape to Europe. From there, many were later loaded on planes and returned to war-ravaged Afghanistan.

Grandi called the forced return of refugees from Europe "shameful" in an interview with The Associated Press on Sunday.

"I do ... fervently hope that the countries like Iran and Pakistan, who have hosted so generously ... don't take their example from much richer countries that are shutting borders, not only to Afghans, but to many other refugees," he said.

While the specter of a U.S.-Taliban peace deal raises hope that the refugees will eventually return home, Grandi said, "I think this time around, the people who are still left outside will be very cautious in their

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 38 of 64

judgment. They would want to have guarantees that it can be sustainable.”

Another challenge will be raising the vast sums of money needed to help return home not only refugees abroad, but also the millions of Afghans who are internally displaced inside their own country. The world has grown tired of sending money to a country with such endemic corruption, which has driven poverty levels up despite billions of dollars in aid since 2001.

Just last month, a U.S. government watchdog said the Afghan government was more interested in ticking off boxes to demonstrate compliance than making real inroads to curb corruption.

Poverty levels in Afghanistan are climbing. In 2012, 34% of Afghans were listed as below the poverty level, living on \$1 a day. Today, that figure has risen to 55%.

Khan, the Afghan refugee in Pakistan, now has grown children who have children of their own. He said he blames the overwhelming poverty in his homeland on a corrupt leadership.

“To tell you the truth, lots of money came to Afghanistan and every influential person, even the mullahs, stole that money,” said Khan. “The leaders are all traitors, they betrayed Afghans. The children of poor people got killed, while no leader lost his son.”

Khan said he had a message for Guterres and for Grandi.

“We don’t ask for much,” he said, looking out over the sunbaked mud and straw homes in the camp where he’s lived for 40 years. Located on the edge of Peshawar, the capital of Pakistan’s Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province, the refugee camp is only about 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the border with Afghanistan.

Among locals, the camp is known as Kabobayan Camp, named for the many kabob shops that sprung up around it, most of which have long since disappeared.

“First we ask for peace,” said Khan, surrounded by dozens of children dressed in tattered clothes. None were wearing socks despite the chilly February morning, their feet and hands caked in mud.

“When there is peace, we should be provided with land on which we can build our homes first. Then we need to have food, and then we need to be able to build our schools, our shops and our mosques,” he said.

Indrika Ratwatte, the U.N. human rights organization’s regional director for Asia, told the AP in an interview last week that Afghan refugees have little faith in their government or international organizations.

Khan’s request for land is reasonable, Ratwatte said, explaining how the U.N. wants to set up 20 zones throughout Afghanistan that would offer returning refugees land to start anew, as a kind of prototype.

“We know how resilient Afghans are,” Ratwatte said. “If you give them that small opportunity, they will make it work. They will make it work. So we have to really ‘walk the talk’ on the land allocation.”

Shah Wali, another elderly refugee, left his home in Surkhrud in Afghanistan’s eastern Nangarhar province almost 40 years ago. He tried returning, but found nothing left. What wasn’t destroyed by war had been taken by neighbors and thieves.

But even the faint chance of peace has him hopeful.

“Give us peace and then we will go back,” he said. “Who doesn’t want to back to their homeland?”

## Americans who left cruise trade one quarantine for another

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Americans Cheryl and Paul Molesky decided to trade one coronavirus quarantine for another.

The couple from Syracuse, New York, cut short a 14-day quarantine on the Diamond Princess cruise ship in a Japanese port to fly back to the United States. But leaving the ship meant they had to spend another two-week quarantine period at a U.S. military facility to make sure they don’t have the new virus that’s been spreading in Asia.

Japan’s Defense Minister Taro Kono tweeted Monday that Japanese troops helped transport 340 U.S. passengers on 14 buses from Yokohama port to Tokyo’s Haneda airport. About 380 Americans were on the cruise ship. The U.S. State Department said later that two charter flights carrying cruise ship passengers had departed Tokyo and were on their way to the United States.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 39 of 64

Australia, Canada, Hong Kong and Italy were planning similar flights of passengers. Cheryl sent The Associated Press a video of her and her husband, Paul, boarding the plane with other Americans.

"Well, we're exhausted, but we're on the plane and that's a good feeling. Pretty miserable wearing these masks though, and everybody had to go to the bathroom on the bus," she said.

The U.S. said it arranged the evacuation because people on the Diamond Princess were at a high risk of exposure to the virus.

The State Department announced later that 14 of the evacuees received confirmed they had the virus but were allowed to board the flight because they did not have symptoms. They were being isolated separately from other passengers on the flight, the U.S. State and Health and Human Services said in a joint statement.

The Americans were flown to Travis Air Force Base in California and Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. After arriving in the U.S., all of the passengers must go through another 14 days of quarantine — meaning they will have been under quarantine for a total of nearly four weeks. Other governments, including Canada and Hong Kong, also will require the passengers to undergo a second 14-day quarantine.

"We are glad to be going home," Cheryl Molesky earlier told NHK TV in Japan. "It's just a little bit disappointing that we'll have to go through quarantine again, and we will probably not be as comfortable as the Diamond Princess, possibly."

Molesky also said she was worried about the rising number of patients on the ship.

"It's a little bit scary with the numbers going up of the people being taken off the ship for the (virus), so I think its time to go. I think its time to cut our losses and take off," she said.

Japan on Sunday announced another 70 infections on the Diamond Princess, raising the ship's total number of cases to 355. Overall, Japan has 419 confirmed cases of the virus, including one death.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation," that 40 Americans have been infected, and those showing symptoms will not be able to get on the evacuation plane.

"If people on the plane start to develop symptoms, they'll be segregated within the plane," Fauci said, adding that the additional 14-day quarantine is because of the "degree of transmissibility on that cruise ship is essentially akin to being in a hot spot."

He added that an infected person who shows minimal symptoms could still pass the virus to someone else.

Asked how they felt about the additional 14-day quarantine in the United States, Cheryl Molesky sighed, and her husband said, "If we have to go through that, we will go through that."

Some American passengers said they would pass up the opportunity to fly to the United States because of the additional quarantine. There also was worry about being on a long flight with other passengers who may be infected or in an incubation period.

One of the Americans, Matthew Smith, said in a tweet Sunday that he saw a passenger with no face mask talking at close quarters with another passenger. He said he and his wife scurried away. "If there are secondary infections on board, this is why. ... And you wanted me to get on a bus with her?" he said.

He said the American health officials who visited their room was apparently surprised that the couple had decided to stay. They wished the couple luck, and Smith said he told them, "Thanks, but we're fine."

---

Associated Press videojournalist Emily Wang in Tokyo contributed to this report.

## Father Josh: A married Catholic priest in a celibate world

By TIM SULLIVAN Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — The priest wakes up at 4 a.m. on the days he celebrates the early Mass, sipping coffee and enjoying the quiet while his young children sleep in rooms awash in stuffed animals and Sesame Street dolls and pictures of saints. Then he kisses his wife goodbye and drives through the empty suburban streets of north Dallas to the church he oversees.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 40 of 64

In a Catholic world where debates over clerical celibacy have flared from Brazil to the Vatican, Joshua Whitfield is that rarest of things: A married Catholic priest.

The Roman Catholic church has demanded celibacy of its priests since the Middle Ages, calling it a "spiritual gift" that enables men to devote themselves fully to the church. But as a shortage of priests becomes a crisis in parts of the world, liberal wings in the church have been arguing that it's time to re-assess that stance. On Wednesday, Pope Francis sidestepped the latest debate on celibacy, releasing an eagerly awaited document that avoided any mention of recommendations by Latin American bishops to consider ordaining married men in the Amazon, where believers can go months without seeing a priest.

Even the most liberal of popes have refused to change the tradition.

It is "the mark of a heroic soul and the imperative call to unique and total love for Christ and His Church," Pope Paul VI wrote in 1967.

Then there's Josh Whitfield.

Whitfield is a husband, a father of four and a relentlessly good-natured priest beloved by the parishioners at Dallas' St. Rita Catholic Community. His life is spent juggling two worlds. He celebrates Mass, he hears confessions; he drives his son to karate practice, he encourages his oldest daughter's love of baseball. He is, he says, "an ecclesiastical zoo exhibit," one of the tiny community of married priests — men who slipped through a clerical loophole created 40 years ago — that even most Catholics don't know exist.

But inside St. Rita, he's just Father Josh.

"It's people like you who are interested in married priests. Here at St. Rita we just get on with it. My job is just to do the tasks the bishop has given me as best I can, and try and make it work," he said in an interview in his book-filled office, where photos of his wife and children vie for space with photos of popes and sketches of his religious heroes.

There are around 125 married Roman Catholic priests like Whitfield, an Episcopal convert, across the U.S., experts say, and perhaps a couple hundred total around the world.

Surveys of Catholics show widespread backing for a married priesthood. A series of reports in recent years by the Pew Research Center showing 62 percent support among U.S. Catholics, 56 percent among Brazilians — the world's most populous Catholic nation — and 63 percent in Central and Eastern Europe.

One reason behind that is a church facing an immense, and growing, shortage of priests. In the U.S., the number of priests has dropped by more than one-third since 1970, falling to less than 37,000 in 2018, even as America's Catholic population has jumped from 54 million to 74 million, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. Worldwide, the number of priests has remained fairly stable over the past 50 years — but the Catholic population has doubled to 1.3 billion.

But there's one very small, very notable Catholic constituency that mostly doesn't support opening up the priesthood to married men: Married priests themselves.

"So many of the married priests, like myself, hold this sort of strange, almost contradictory position. And I get that it's hard to understand. But that's sort of the irritating beauty of Catholicism. The church persistently thinks theologically, and not sociologically and not politically, at her best," said Whitfield.

The Catholic Church, which includes nearly two dozen rites, allows married priests in its Eastern Rite churches. It also allows in some married priests like Whitfield, a former Episcopal priest who converted to Catholicism with his wife, Alli, in 2009 and was ordained as a Catholic priest three years later.

While married priests were common in Christianity's first centuries, the Latin Rite — the largest of Catholicism's branches, and the dominant rite in the West — has enforced a tradition of a celibate priesthood since the 11th century, in part as a way to keep priests' assets inside the church, instead of being passed to their heirs. It's also in part a way to keep down costs, since maintaining a family is more expensive.

Pope Francis has walked a careful line on celibacy, noting that it is a tradition, not theological dogma, and as a result is open to change. His statements range from the clear-cut — "I don't agree to allow optional celibacy, no" — to the more nuanced, saying married priests might be allowed "when there is a pastoral necessity" in remote areas with dire clerical shortages.

That possibility worries conservatives and thrills liberals, both of whom believe that allowing married priests in such areas as Amazonia or the Pacific Islands could crack open the door to a married clergy.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 41 of 64

Whitfield, 41, became a Catholic priest in 2012 through the Pastoral Provision, a set of rules crafted by Pope John Paul II in 1980 that gives married Episcopal priests who have converted to Catholicism the chance to apply for ordination in the Catholic church.

The process, which can take years, includes everything from psychological interviews to exams on Catholic theology and, in the end, a special dispensation from the pope.

The convert priests see themselves as narrow exceptions to centuries of Catholic rules, part of a drive in the Catholic church to reunite with some branches of Anglicanism. They live with special restrictions, including that they cannot become bishops. They also cannot remarry if their wives die, and must spend the rest of their priestly lives as celibates.

Many of the married converts had become disenchanted with the Episcopal church as they watched it grow increasingly liberal in recent decades, amid bitter battles over such issues as women priests and gay marriage. Ironically, they often find themselves heroes to liberal Catholics, who see them as a modernizing force in the church.

"We are these very conservative men who have left the Episcopal church and now meet all these left-wing Catholics who are celebrating our presence," said Father Paul Sullins, a married priest, father of three and longtime professor at Catholic University. "It can be uncomfortable at times, but we try to love each other."

Deborah Rose-Milavec, of the Catholic advocacy group FutureChurch, is one of those progressives.

"Whatever their politics on marriage, by the way they live their lives they show it's entirely possible to have a married clergy. They are effective in their ministry. They can say Mass and raise kids. They can administer the sacraments and have a family."

Sullins acknowledges that married priests like himself could eventually lead to others.

"We could be the vanguard someday, even if we don't want to be the vanguard," he said.

Whitfield, who left the Episcopal church in part because he was alienated by the bitterness of its divisions, and felt called to the traditionalism and obedience of Catholicism, avoids debates about celibacy.

"You would think I would have a strong opinion one way or the other," he said. He believes celibacy should be the norm. But if the church decides to allow married priests "then I'd say, 'OK, let's do it, and I can show you how because we've made it work.'"

There's a clear joy in how he and Alli have made it work.

With four children under 10 years old, they live amid the chaos of school and sports and toys and birthday parties. Dinners can be loud, bathtimes can be challenging and scheduling for so many children can be relentlessly complicated. It is, Whitfield says, "a mess of a beautiful family."

"I like to go home and sit down and wrestle with my kids until they upset me and I yell at them," he says.

Whitfield is a gentle-spoken man who beats himself up over his bad Spanish and wonders sometimes if he spends enough time with his children. He's a relentless reader — his shelves hold everything from Jane Austen to Dickens to Ta-Nehisi Coates to treatises on Catholic theology and a biography of St. Benedict.

Theirs is, in many ways, a traditional marriage: he works; she oversees the house and the kids.

The demands on Whitfield are relentless: Masses, confession, church administration, counseling, bureaucratic issues with the church's school, regional clergy meetings.

Both sometimes find themselves wrestling with the dual pulls of the church and family.

"It would be nice if he would be with us on a Saturday morning," said Alli, because that's when Josh often has Mass and confession and she is juggling soccer games and birthday parties.

While the parish has warmly welcomed Whitfield and his family, there are occasional complications, from newcomers shocked when Whitfield mentions Alli in a sermon, to a priest's wife — a convert — who isn't quite sure about some Catholic traditions.

"It leads me to stalking moms who grew up Catholic to ask: What did your family do? ... Do you let your kids eat meat on Friday?" she said.

She sees her family as completely normal, albeit more conservative and religious than most. When Whitfield was wrestling with his Episcopalian faith, her concerns were often more prosaic.

"We were at this nice (Episcopal) church and they were supportive of us. We knew where his paychecks

were coming from. And if we became Catholic all that would stop. I think that was the big fear for me: Your husband not having a job all of a sudden."

Sometimes, she's still surprised at where she has found herself after meeting Josh in college, when she was just out of her teens.

"I didn't ask for any of this. I was a 20-year-old girl just praying for a man with some faith. But you know, I guess God thought this would be pretty funny."

Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through the Religion News Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump's exaggerations on Roger Stone sentence

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is misrepresenting the Justice Department's handling of the legal case of his confidant, Roger Stone.

He's suggesting rampant bias in the department's initial recommendation to a federal court that Stone be sentenced between seven and nine years in prison, claiming that all four prosecutors are former members of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia team. That's not true.

Trump also says the proposed sentence was put forth in secret. He's wrong on that, too.

The president's exaggerations came in an extraordinary week in which Justice Department leaders overruled Stone's prosecutors following a tweet complaint by Trump and lowered the amount of recommended prison time. Attorney General William Barr nevertheless publicly scolded Trump, saying the president's tweets were making it "impossible" for him to do his job.

Meanwhile, Trump spread a variety of distortions at a New Hampshire rally, including about the border wall and voter fraud, and still more in other venues. The release of his proposed budget prompted Democrats to wrongly accuse him of undermining Medicare.

A look at the past week's political rhetoric and reality:

### JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

TRUMP: "Who are the four prosecutors (Mueller people?) who cut and ran after being exposed for recommending a ridiculous 9 year prison sentence to a man that got caught up in an investigation that was illegal, the Mueller Scam, and shouldn't ever even have started?" — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: He's incorrect on several fronts.

Four lawyers who prosecuted Stone did quit the case after Justice Department leaders took the extraordinary step of reducing their recommended sentence. Only two, however, were members of Mueller's team.

There was nothing secret about the proposed sentence for Stone that was purportedly "exposed," as Trump asserts. Each of the four attorneys had signed onto a public court filing last week that recommended seven to nine years in prison for Stone. The Trump adviser was convicted of lying to Congress, witness tampering and obstructing the House investigation into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to tip the 2016 election.

Nor was the Russia probe illegally started. Multiple court rulings upheld Mueller's appointment as special counsel.

While a Justice Department inspector general's report in December found "serious performance failures" in the FBI's Russia investigation, it said the FBI was justified in opening the probe. The report also did not find evidence that the bureau had acted with political bias, a conclusion at odds with Trump's frequent insistence that he's the victim of a "scam" and witch hunt.

TRUMP, citing a quote by Barr: "The President has never asked me to do anything in a criminal case.' A.G. Barr This doesn't mean that I do not have, as President, the legal right to do so, I do, but I have so far chosen not to!" — tweet Friday.

THE FACTS: As president, Trump technically has the right to compel the Justice Department, an executive

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 43 of 64

branch agency, to open investigations. But historically, when it comes to decisions on criminal investigations and prosecutions, the Justice Department has functioned independently, unmoved and unbound by political sway.

Barr made that sentiment clear last week, telling ABC News that Trump's tweets undermine the department's perception as independent.

"To have public statements and tweets made about the department, about our people ... about cases pending in the department, and about judges before whom we have cases, make it impossible for me to do my job and to assure the courts and the prosecutors in the department that we're doing our work with integrity," Barr said.

Barr was directly asked in the ABC interview whether he believed Trump had the authority to direct him to open an investigation.

In many cases yes, such as "terrorism or fraud by a bank or something like that," he said. However, "If he were to say, you know, go investigate somebody because — and you sense it's because they're a political opponent, then an attorney general shouldn't carry that out, wouldn't carry that out."

## THE WALL

TRUMP: "You do know who's paying for the wall, don't you? Redemption from illegal aliens that are coming. The redemption money is paying for the wall." — New Hampshire rally on Feb. 10.

THE FACTS: To date, the money is coming from the U.S. treasury, meaning today's taxpayers and the future ones who will inherit the federal debt. To the extent any people who came into the U.S. illegally are kicking in for the wall, it's because they're working and paying taxes like other workers.

"Redemption" payments don't exist; Trump apparently meant to cite remittances. That refers to money that immigrants in the U.S. send to their countries of origin, often to family members. Trump has at various times talked about taxing or blocking such money, but that has not been done.

Mexico flatly refused at the outset to pay for the wall. That has given rise to creative formulations by the president about how Mexico in some way is contributing. For example, he has projected that his updated trade agreement with Mexico and Canada will stimulate enough extra growth over the years to cover the cost. Even if that happens, which analysts widely doubt, the wall will have cost the U.S. money that it could have used for something else. It's not a payment from Mexico.

Trump freed up \$3.6 billion for the wall last year by diverting money from military construction projects as well as \$2.5 billion from approved counter-drug spending.

## VOTER FRAUD

TRUMP: "Remember last time we won the primary tremendously. We should have won the election but they had buses being shipped up from Massachusetts, hundreds and hundreds of buses." — New Hampshire rally.

THE FACTS: Trump is once again trafficking in the unfounded conspiracy theory that buses of illegal voters traveled in from Massachusetts in 2016 to deprive him of a New Hampshire victory in the general election against Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The accusation that people from more liberal Massachusetts crossed state lines in buses and voted in 2016 was made by Republican Chris Sununu, who at the time won election as governor. Sununu quickly backed down, saying his talk about busloads of illegal voters was "more a figure of speech" — in other words, not reality. Sununu later told the New Hampshire news network NH1 that he was "not aware of any widespread voter fraud" in the state.

More broadly, Trump has repeatedly asserted but produced no evidence of widespread voting fraud in 2016 by people in the country illegally or by any group of people.

He tried, but the commission he appointed on voting fraud collapsed from infighting and from the refusal of states to cooperate when tapped for reams of personal voter data such as names, partial Social Security numbers and voting histories. Studies have found only isolated cases of voter fraud in recent U.S. elections and no evidence that election results were affected.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 44 of 64

Loyola Law School professor Justin Levitt found 31 cases of impersonation fraud, for example, in about 1 billion votes cast in elections from 2000 to 2014.

## 401(k)

TRUMP, on workers' 401(k) investments: "Up 90%, up 104%. Is there anybody doing badly with the 401(k)? ... Don't put up your hand, I don't believe you. The 401(k)s, they're up 90%, 95%." — New Hampshire rally.

THE FACTS: That's misleading at best.

There have indeed been 401(k) increases of 100% or more since 2017, but those were largely among workers with fewer than four years at their job, according to the Employee Benefits Research Institute. The increases are big for recent and younger employees because they generally start with meager savings. The gains come in part from workers setting aside money from their own paychecks and contributions from their employers, not just market returns.

In that circumstance, it's unremarkable to see a \$1,000 401(k) account double in a year, for example, when a young worker and perhaps the employer is paying into it.

Older workers with more than 20 years on the job have seen gains of roughly 50% over three years in their retirement accounts, thanks both to contributions from paychecks and market gains.

Moreover, the S&P 500 — the broadest measure of the U.S. stock market — was up about 48% from Trump's inauguration through Friday's close.

Some 401(k) averages are problematic for Trump's claims to be generating prosperity because many workers lack the savings for a comfortable retirement. The median account balance was \$22,217 in 2018 in 401(k) and similar plans for which investment giant Vanguard was the record-keeper. That's down from \$26,331 in 2017.

## IMPEACHMENT

TRUMP, on impeachment: "It wasn't even close. I want to thank our Republican senators and our Republican House members; they were tremendous. In the House, we won 196 to nothing, and then we got three Democrats." — New Hampshire rally.

THE FACTS: By that measure, the San Francisco 49ers won the Super Bowl 20-0. They actually lost it 31-20 to the Kansas City Chiefs.

If you only count your own score, you win every vote and every game.

The House impeached Trump on a 230-197 vote on the first article, outlining abuse of power charges, and a 229-198 vote on the second article covering obstruction of Congress. That's because most of the majority Democrats backed impeachment.

Trump went on to say: "In the Senate, other than Romney, we had — we got 52 to nothing."

Again, he ignores votes from the Democrats. Trump was acquitted of impeachment charges after senators in the Republican-controlled Senate narrowly rejected Democratic demands to summon witnesses and extend the trial. The Senate acquitted Trump by votes of 52-48 on abuse of power and 53-47 on obstructing Congress.

Utah Sen. Mitt Romney was the only Republican to vote for conviction, doing so on the "abuse of power" charge.

## DEMOCRATS ON MEDICARE

JOE BIDEN on Trump's proposed budget: "Look at the budget he just submitted. He eviscerates Medicare." — CBS interview on Feb. 10.

HOUSE SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI: "One week after the President paid lip service to protecting the health care of American families, his budget betrays his values with cruel cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. Vulnerable families and seniors deserve better." — tweet on Feb. 10.

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER CHUCK SCHUMER: "By proposing severe cuts to Medicaid and Medicare, President Trump's latest budget is simply a continuation of his war to rip away health care from millions

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 45 of 64

of Americans, including people with preexisting conditions." — statement on Feb. 10.

THE FACTS: The leading Democrats are engaging in a timeworn political tactic known as 'Mediscare.' Trump's budget doesn't gut Medicare, and it wouldn't reduce benefits to seniors.

The budget's \$465 billion over 10 years in Medicare cuts would come from lower projected payments to hospitals and other service providers. For example, the budget calls for equalizing Medicare payments for similar services delivered in a hospital-owned facility and a doctor's office, saving about \$164 billion over 10 years. Hospital-based services generally command higher reimbursement now, a practice that has prompted criticism.

The budget also underscores Trump's support for legislation to lower drug costs for seniors enrolled in Medicare's Part D prescription plan.

The outlook is worse for Medicaid, which covers low-income people, including seniors and disabled people who qualify for both programs. Trump's budget signals his intention to press for significant Medicaid cuts, which could lead states to scale back some benefits.

## VETERANS

TRUMP, boasting of accomplishments for veterans: "Something that couldn't be done for 44 years, they say, and that's Veterans Choice. That's one of the reasons, I think, the VA is doing so well." — veterans' event Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Actually, President Barack Obama won passage of the Veterans Choice program, which gives veterans the option to see private doctors outside the VA medical system at government expense. Congress approved the program in 2014, and Obama signed it into law. Trump expanded it.

The program's impact on improving VA care has been unclear.

The VA has said it does not expect a major increase in veterans seeking care outside the VA under Trump's expanded program, partly because wait times in the private sector are typically longer than at VA. "The care in the private sector, nine times out of 10, is probably not as good as care in VA," VA Secretary Robert Wilkie told Congress last year.

In 2019, 35 percent of all VA appointments were with outside physicians, slightly lower than the 36 percent in 2017.

## PHILIPPINES

TRUMP, responding to word that the Philippines will end a security pact allowing U.S. forces to train in the country: "We helped them defeat ISIS. ... But if you look back, if you go back three years ago, when ISIS was overrunning the Philippines, we came in and, literally, single-handedly were able to save them from vicious attacks on their islands." — Wednesday at the White House.

THE FACTS: He's wrong in saying Islamic State fighters were overrunning the Philippines and that the U.S. "single-handedly" saved the country from them.

Only dozens of IS fighters are known to have gone to the Philippines since the rise of the group in the Mideast, and the local militants who aligned with the organization number in the hundreds.

In May 2017, in the operation touched on by Trump, more than 600 IS-aligned local militants, backed by a smattering of foreign jihadists, laid siege to Marawi, a small Islamic city in the largely Roman Catholic country. They held control of several neighborhoods and multiple buildings. Philippine troops launched a massive offensive and routed them after five months.

U.S. and Australian aircraft helped with surveillance. U.S. troops were not engaged in combat. The Philippine Constitution prohibits that.

## TRUMP ON BLOOMBERG

TRUMP: "Mini Mike is a 5'4" mass of dead energy who does not want to be on the debate stage with these professional politicians. No boxes please." — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: Democratic presidential contender Mike Bloomberg is not that short.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 46 of 64

In a letter released by Bloomberg's campaign in December, Bloomberg's doctor said the candidate is 5 feet, 7 inches, and 165 pounds.

Bloomberg once listed his height on his driver's license as 5-foot-10, which he isn't. When he was mayor of New York City, the New York newspapers variously reported his height at 5-foot-6, 5-foot-7 and just shy of 5-foot-8.

Trump shortchanged all that in his tweet, cutting Bloomberg's height by several inches.

Trump's own height has been a moving target. He's been listed at 6-foot-3-inches by the White House physician. But in 2016, Politico reported that his driver's license had him as 6-foot-2, the same height as on his Selective Service registration card in 1964.

Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Josh Boak, Christopher Rugaber and Jill Colvin in Washington and Jim Gomez in Manila, Philippines, contributed to this report.

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

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apne.ws/2kx8bd>

Follow @APFactCheck on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APFactCheck>

## Rival Democrats accuse Bloomberg of trying to 'buy' election

By **ALEXANDRA JAFFE** and **NICHOLAS RICCARDI** Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — With the Nevada caucuses less than a week away, Democratic presidential candidates campaigning this weekend were fixated on a rival who wasn't contesting the state.

Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden, Amy Klobuchar, Elizabeth Warren and Pete Buttigieg all targeted billionaire Mike Bloomberg, accusing him of buying his way into the election and making clear they were eager to take him on in a debate.

"He thinks he can buy this election," Sanders said of the former New York mayor at a Sunday rally in Carson City, Nevada. "Well, I've got news for Mr. Bloomberg — the American people are sick and tired of billionaires buying elections!"

Their attacks are a sign of how seriously the field is starting to take Bloomberg as he gains traction in the race and is on the cusp of qualifying for Wednesday's Democratic debate in Las Vegas. Bloomberg has bypassed the traditional early voting states including Nevada, focusing instead on the 14 states that vote in the Super Tuesday primary on March 3. He has spent more than \$417 million of his own multibillion-dollar fortune on advertising nationwide, an unprecedented sum for any candidate in a primary.

The focus on Bloomberg comes amid anxiety among many establishment-aligned Democrats over the early strength of Sanders, who won last week's New Hampshire primary and essentially tied for first place in Iowa with Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana. Sanders is hoping to notch a victory in Nevada on Saturday as moderates struggle to unite behind a candidate who could serve as a counter to the Vermont senator, who has long identified as a democratic socialist.

The hundreds of millions of dollars that Bloomberg has pumped into the Super Tuesday states has only heightened the sense of uncertainty surrounding the Democratic race.

At Sanders' rally, the crowd cheered as the Vermont senator joked that Bloomberg is "struggling, he's down to his last \$60 billion" and derided him for skipping the early primary states.

It marked an escalation of the salvo Sanders launched Saturday against the former mayor, when he ticked off a litany of conservative positions Bloomberg has taken in the past, including opposing a minimum wage hike and his opposition to a number of Barack Obama's policies while president. On Saturday, Sanders suggested the former mayor's past conservatism and controversial comments make him a weak candidate against President Donald Trump, charging that Bloomberg, "with all his money, will not create the kind of excitement and energy we need" to beat Trump.

And on Sunday, he was joined by the current mayor of New York, Bill de Blasio, who just this week

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 47 of 64

endorsed Sanders. De Blasio introduced Sanders with an attack of his own on his predecessor, telling the crowd, "I'm sorry to report to you the chief proponent of stop and frisk is now running for president."

Klobuchar, speaking on CBS' "Face the Nation," accused Bloomberg of avoiding scrutiny by blanketing the airwaves and sidestepping debates or tough televised interviews.

"I think he cannot hide behind the airwaves and the money," she said. "I think he has to come on the shows. And I personally think he should be on the debate stage."

Klobuchar said she's raised \$12 million since her better-than-expected finish in third place in New Hampshire. She's maintained her campaign through a series of strong debate performances and argued that Bloomberg being on stage with his rivals would level the playing field.

"I'm never going to beat him on the airwaves, but I can beat him on the debate stage," she said.

Biden, speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press," suggested that Bloomberg will face increased scrutiny as the race continues, pointing to his record on issues relating to race.

"\$60 billion can buy you a lot of advertising, but it can't erase your record," he said.

Biden knocked Bloomberg's past support of stop-and-frisk policing policies and his comments suggesting cracking down on racist mortgage lending practices, known as "redlining," contributed to the financial crisis, as well as his 2008 refusal to endorse Barack Obama for president. Bloomberg has been airing ads that tie him closely to Obama on issues like gun control and climate change.

When asked on MSNBC about whether Bloomberg shares the values of the Democratic Party, Warren also went after the former mayor over his comments on redlining, declaring that "anyone who is out there trying to blame African Americans for the financial crash of 2008...is not someone who should be representing our party."

Buttigieg likened Bloomberg to Trump when asked about reports that Bloomberg made sexist comments towards women and fostered a culture of sexism at his company.

"I think he's going to have to answer for that and speak to it," Buttigieg said.

He later added: "Look, this is a time where voters are looking for a president who can lead us out of the days when it was just commonplace or accepted to have these kinds of sexist and discriminatory attitudes. Right now, this is our chance to do something different."

But even as the front-running candidates kept one eye on their Super Tuesday showdown with Bloomberg, they also focused on the more immediate task of winning over minority voters, who will play a pivotal role in the contests in Nevada and South Carolina.

Biden reminded older parishioners at the First African Methodist Episcopal Church in North Las Vegas of 1960s television footage of black protesters in Birmingham, Alabama, being attacked by police dogs and sprayed with fire hoses on the orders of city official Bull Connor.

Biden said today's racists are not "Bull Connors, not out in overalls. They're wearing fine suits, and they're living in the White House."

The former vice president is relying on his strength among black voters and an explicit appeal to Latinos and other minorities to deliver him a strong showing in the coming contests after posting disappointing finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire, which both feature electorates that are whiter on average than the national population.

Biden has been hammering home the need for any Democratic candidate to appeal to voters of color. On Sunday, he told black lawmakers and other political figures at the Nevada Black Legislative Caucus's Black History Month observance that "the black community has in its power to determine who the next president of the United States is going to be."

Nevada and South Carolina are also a key test for Buttigieg and Klobuchar, who have thus far ridden on momentum from stronger-than-expected finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire, respectively, but have both faced questions about their appeal to minority voters.

On Sunday, when asked to name a mistake he had made as mayor, Buttigieg acknowledged that he failed to recognize the pain that his decisions made, particularly for communities of color.

"I was laser-focused on making sure we did the right thing legally ... I didn't always hear the voices who

were talking about the story behind the story," Buttigieg said. "I was a data guy."

Later that day, at a luncheon for the Nevada Legislative Black Caucus, Buttigieg said he was proud of his work with black leaders in his city to deliver affordable housing and improve the black unemployment rate, but he said he was "humbled by the work left to do."

Jaffe reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Jonathan Cooper and Bill Barrow in Las Vegas contributed to this report.

## All-Star weekend, as expected, was about honoring Kobe

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — It has become one of the NBA's most revered traditions: On the morning of the NBA All-Star Game, the league pays tribute to retired players with what is called the Legends Brunch. It brings together about 3,000 guests, and every year a recent retiree with ties to the game's host city is honored.

When the game was in Los Angeles two years ago, the NBA wanted to honor Kobe Bryant.

He declined. He couldn't attend. His reason: his daughter Gianna Bryant had a game that morning.

"That said, to us, everything about his priorities," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said Sunday as he recalled that conversation with Bryant.

This All-Star weekend was Michael Jordan's longtime home of Chicago, highlighted by a game where LeBron James and Giannis Antetokounmpo served as captains — but it was, predictably and understandably, overshadowed by the mourning of Bryant.

Jennifer Hudson, wearing the Lakers' deep purple, performed a pregame tribute to Bryant and sang "For All We Know." Players on James' team wore Gianna's No. 2 on their jerseys and players on Antetokounmpo's team wore Kobe's No. 24 on theirs. And all players wore a patch with nine stars, one for each victim of the crash.

Common, in his pregame tribute to Chicago, also paid homage to Bryant, saying that "even in the darkest times, you'll feel Kobe's light."

Everyone at the All-Star Game on Sunday got a 24-page tribute published by Sports Illustrated devoted to Bryant's career. On the last page of text, just before the back cover, was a quote from Jordan: "I loved Kobe — he was like a little brother to me," it began. Next to that quote was a photo, Bryant guarding Jordan in 1997, sticking his tongue out much in the same way that the Bulls' guard often did.

And when the night was over, Kawhi Leonard was the first recipient of the Kobe Bryant MVP Award, given to the player voted as the biggest star of the All-Star Game — a trophy that Bryant hoisted four times.

It's been three weeks now since Bryant, 13-year-old Gianna and seven others were killed in a helicopter crash in Southern California.

And the mourning period is still very active, very real, very necessary.

It's a doubly somber time for the NBA, since the league is also coming to grips with the Jan. 1 death of Commissioner Emeritus David Stern — the person credited for taking a fledgling league and turning it into one of the planet's most powerful sports brands, a multi-billion-dollar entity with a reach that touches nearly every outpost on earth. Stern was remembered as well at the Legends Brunch, and Silver drew a parallel between Bryant and his former boss.

"Just as a reminder: Who more embodies the spirit of All-Star than Kobe? ... He always played hard. He didn't care if it was an All-Star game," Silver said. "And I think that's what he and David had in common. They always competed. They believed in the power of sports. They believed in winning and they believed it was necessary to always give their all. And I think that's why their losses have resonated with so many people around the world."

Magic Johnson — like Bryant, a Los Angeles Lakers legend — had been hired two years ago to introduce Bryant at the Legends Brunch, the one that Bryant couldn't attend because his daughter had a game that morning.

On Sunday, Johnson finally got his chance to speak at the event and pay tribute to Bryant. He told the



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 49 of 64

story about how, before Bryant was drafted in 1996, Jerry West called him to say that he had seen the greatest draft workout that he could recall.

He was speaking of Bryant's workout.

"And I said, 'Really,'" said Johnson, who also paid tribute to Stern and Bryant at United Center before Sunday's game by addressing fans. "He said, 'Yes, this guy named Kobe Bryant. Just was incredible in his workout and we're going to do everything we can to draft him.'"

The rest is history. Bryant came to the Lakers in a draft-night trade and played there for 20 years, winning five titles. Johnson said he was quickly impressed with Bryant's work ethic, how he would work for two hours before practice and then go through another two-hour session with the team.

"That's who Kobe Bryant was," Johnson said. "He was always thinking about 'How can I get better? How can I lead my team to victory?' And when you think about him scoring 81 points in a game, only second to Wilt Chamberlain, and then five NBA championships, and then to score 60 points in his last game — that was probably the greatest thing I've ever seen from any athlete. He said, 'Hey, I'm going to go out Mamba-style.'"

The brunch paid tribute this year to four individuals: USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo received the Lifetime Achievement award, newly retired three-time NBA champion and Chicago native Dwyane Wade received the Community Ambassador award, retired WNBA player and another Chicago native Cappie Pondexter was the Hometown Hero recipient, and longtime Chicago Bulls star and six-time NBA champion Scottie Pippen was the Legend of the Year.

Pippen was at his Los Angeles home when he got the news on Jan. 26 about Bryant.

"It was a weird morning," Pippen said. "And I'm still today regretting that I didn't get a chance to tell Kobe Bryant how great he really was."

---

More AP coverage of the life and death of Kobe Bryant: <https://apnews.com/KobeBryant>

---

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

## He's still standing: Elton John to finish Down Under tour

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Elton John intends to play his remaining shows in New Zealand and Australia, his tour promoters said Monday, a day after illness caused the singer to lose his voice and cut short a performance.

Video clips posted online by fans at Sunday night's performance showed John breaking down in tears as he told the cheering crowd he couldn't go on any longer. The 72-year-old singer said he had walking pneumonia and was assisted off stage.

Tour promoters Chugg Entertainment said John was resting and doctors were confident he would recover. They said a concert planned for Tuesday in Auckland would be delayed until Wednesday on the advice of doctors.

"Elton John was disappointed and deeply upset at having to end his Auckland concert early last night," the promoters said in their statement.

The concert was part of John's Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour. As well as the delayed performance on Wednesday, John is scheduled to play again in Auckland on Thursday and then seven performances in Australia before traveling to the U.S. and Canada.

He thanked the concert attendees via an Instagram post and apologized for ending the show early.

"I want to thank everyone who attended tonight's gig in Auckland. I was diagnosed with walking pneumonia earlier today, but I was determined to give you the best show humanly possible," John wrote. "I played and sang my heart out, until my voice could sing no more. I'm disappointed, deeply upset and sorry. I gave it all I had."

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said she watched the show and got to meet John for about five minutes before he started playing.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 50 of 64

"You could tell that he wasn't feeling well and he said he wasn't feeling well," Ardern said. "So I think you could see that on the stage last night, which I think is just a credit to his commitment to his fans."

Ardern said the pair discussed politics and how her toddler daughter Neve loves to dance to his music. John has previously expressed his admiration for the New Zealand leader.

The New Zealand Herald reported that John told the crowd he was ill but that he didn't want to miss the show. He slumped on a stool and required medical attention after performing "Someone Saved My Life Tonight," but recovered and continued to play, the newspaper reported. Later, as he attempted to sing "Daniel," he realized he had no voice left and was escorted off stage.

John had just returned to New Zealand after performing at the Academy Awards in Los Angeles. He won an Oscar for best original song for his theme song for the movie "Rocketman."

According to the Mayo Clinic, walking pneumonia is an informal term for a milder form of pneumonia that isn't severe enough to require hospitalization or bed rest. It affects the respiratory tract and is most often caused by bacteria.

## Asian markets mixed: Japan skids; China helped by rate cut

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Markets were mixed in Asia on Monday, with Japan's benchmark slipping 0.8% after the government reported the economy contracted 6.3% in annual terms in the last quarter. China's shares got a boost after the central bank stepped in to help the economy with a rate cut, extra buying of securities and tax cuts.

The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo was at 23,507.63 by late morning, while Sydney's S&P ASX/200 edged 1% lower to 7,120.00. South Korea's Kospi was flat, at 2,242.50, while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong climbed 0.5% to 27,953.73.

The Shanghai Composite index jumped 1.3% to 2,955.07 after the central bank and finance minister announced a slew of measures to support the economy as the country battles an outbreak of a new virus that has killed 1,770 people and infected nearly 70,000.

Shares fell in Taiwan and were flat in Bangkok and Jakarta.

The contraction in the Japanese economy, the world's third-largest, reflected the impact of typhoons, trade tensions and crimped consumer spending. The seasonally adjusted economic data was announced as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe faces pressure over spreading cases of the new viral illness COVID-19 and markets around the region see a mounting toll from its impact on travel and tourism as authorities strive to contain it.

"Consumer spending, which slumped following the tax hike in the fourth quarter of 2019, will now struggle to do anything except contract further in the first quarter as the impact of Covid-19 weighs on consumer sentiment, weighing in particular on the consumer services sector," ING said in a report.

"Some further government spending may help to curb any further contraction in GDP beyond 1Q20. But that will not stop what started off as a technical downturn from evolving into a full-blown recession," it said.

Thailand and Singapore also reported weak growth in the last quarter of 2019, in figures that like Japan's do not yet reflect the consequences of the coronavirus outbreak.

But good news came in the form of fresh help from the People's Bank of China, which cut its one-year medium-term lending rate to 3.15% from 3.25%. The central bank also injected some 200 billion yuan (\$28.6 billion) and conducted 100 billion yuan (\$14.3 billion) in reverse repos, in effect putting more cash into the market through short-term purchases of securities.

Such moves will likely be followed by still more, said Julian Evans-Pritchard, given that many of the companies worst affected by the virus outbreak are smaller ones that lack access to loans from major state-run banks.

"We think the PBOC will need to expand its re-lending quotas and relax constraints on shadow banking in order to direct more credit to struggling SMEs," Evans-Pritchard said in a commentary.

Wall Street closed out a wobbly day of trading Friday with the major stock indexes notching their second

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 51 of 64

straight weekly gain. Though trading was mostly subdued and cautious following China's report Thursday of a surge in cases of a new virus that raised fresh concerns about global economic growth.

The S&P 500 index rose 0.2% to 3,380.16. The Nasdaq composite gained 0.2%, to 9,731.18. Both indexes were lower for most of the afternoon. The Dow dropped 0.1%, to 29,398.08. The Russell 2000 index slid 0.4%, to 1,687.58.

Technology companies led the gainers Friday. Chipmaker Nvidia was a standout, jumping 7% after it handily beat analysts' profit forecasts for the fourth quarter.

The real estate and utilities sectors also held up well as government bond yields fell, making companies that pay higher dividends more attractive. Digital Realty Trust climbed 3.9% and American Water Works rose 1.7%.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury was at 1.59% from 1.58% late Friday.

Benchmark U.S. crude oil fell 5 cents to \$52.00 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It closed 1.2% higher on Friday, notching its first weekly gain in six weeks. Brent crude oil, the international standard, lost 15 cents to \$57.17 a barrel.

The slide in oil prices has weighed on energy stocks. The sector is the biggest loser in the S&P 500, down 10.2% so far this year.

More than three quarters of S&P 500 companies have reported earnings and the results so far show solid growth. Companies are expected to report overall profit growth of just under 1% when all the reports are in, according to estimates from FactSet.

Several big companies are on deck to report results next week. Walmart will release its report on Tuesday and Deere will report on Friday.

On Wednesday, the government will issue its report on producer prices, which measures inflation pressures before they reach consumers and there will be updates on the health of the housing industry. The Federal Reserve will release minutes from its January meeting.

In other commodities trading, gold lost 70 cents to \$1,585.70 per ounce, silver rose 10 cents to \$17.83 per ounce and copper fell 1 cent to \$2.61 per pound.

The dollar rose to 109.81 Japanese yen from 109.77 yen on Friday. The euro weakened to \$1.0833 from \$1.0839.

## Searchers recover bodies of 2 killed in Colorado avalanche

VAIL, Colo. (AP) — Searchers have recovered the bodies of two Colorado men who died after being caught in a weekend avalanche in central Colorado, the Colorado Avalanche Information Center reported Sunday.

Three men were riding snowbikes Saturday afternoon when they were caught in the slide about 10 miles (16 kilometers) north of Vail. One man was able to dig himself out and called for help at about 4:45 p.m., the Eagle County Sheriff's Office said.

The other men were carried into a gully at the bottom of a drainage area, avalanche debris piled up deeply and they were fully buried, the Avalanche Information Center said in a statement.

Hunter Schleper of Vail told KCNC-TV that he and his friends dug for five hours trying to find the victims. Schleper posted on Facebook that they located the riders under 20 feet (6 meters) of snow. But Vail Mountain Rescue told them to stop their efforts Saturday evening because of low visibility and avalanche danger.

The Eagle County Sheriff's Office announced a "search and recovery mission" Sunday morning. The bodies were recovered on Sunday, the avalanche center said. The sheriff's office identified the victims as Dillon Block, 28, and Cesar Almanza-Hernandez, 30, both of Gypsum.

Four people have died in avalanches in Colorado this winter, the center said.

## Assad's forces make advances, further securing Aleppo region

By ALBERT AJI and SARAH EL DEEB undefined

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syrian troops have made significant advances against the last rebel held enclaves in the country's northwest, state media said on Sunday, consolidating the government's hold over the key Aleppo province.

The Syrian government advance also appeared to put the provincial capital of Aleppo out of the firing range of opposition groups for the first time in years, another sign of Syrian President Bashar Assad's growing control of the area.

The armed opposition had been driven out of Aleppo city's eastern quarters in late 2016, which they controlled for years while battling government forces who were in charge in the western part. Rebel groups had continued to harry government forces, however, from outside the city with mortar rounds.

State news agency SANA reported 30 villages and towns around the city in the western Aleppo countryside were captured on Sunday.

Rami Abdul-Rahman, the head of the Britain-based war monitor Syria Observatory for Human Rights, confirmed the report.

The state-run Al-Ikhbariya TV said government troops were still besieging remnants of opposition fighters in a small part of rural western Aleppo. Also, parts of northern Aleppo region, which straddles the border with Turkey, is administered by Turkey and allied Syrian factions. Another segment of the province further west is controlled by Kurdish-led forces, allied with the United States. Both parts have not been part of the government offensive.

The fighting in the Aleppo region and nearby Idlib province has unleashed a humanitarian crisis. Over 800,000 civilians out of nearly 4 million living in the enclave have been displaced, living in open fields and temporary shelters for the most part in harsh winter conditions.

The armed opposition is now squeezed into a shrinking area of nearby Idlib province, where the government is also on the offensive.

"The Syrian people are determined to liberate all Syrian territories," President Assad said according to the Syrian state news agency on Sunday.

Assad was speaking during a meeting with visiting Iranian parliamentary speaker Ali Larijani. Both Iran and Russia have heavily backed Assad in the civil war.

The Syrian leader also claimed "terrorists" in northwestern Syria were using residents as "human shields," in an attempt to stop Syrian troops from advancing into the territory.

Syria's government considers all the opposition in the nine-year war as "terrorists" and has repeatedly leveled accusation that they take residents of areas they control as hostages. But many of the displaced in Syria's Idlib province have fled the fighting in other parts of the country, choosing to live in areas outside of government control.

Turkey has sent thousands of troops and equipment into the opposition enclave, in an attempt to stall the government advance.

Turkey, which backs the opposition, has called for an end to the Syrian government offensive. It also fears that the displaced may overwhelm its borders. Turkey is already home to more than 3.5 million Syrian refugees. The United Nations has also called for a cease-fire.

Larijani, meanwhile, reiterated his country's support for Syria in fighting terrorism. Iran has played a key role in supporting Assad's war efforts, sending financial support as well as fighters to back up Syrian military operations.

Support from Russia and Iran has enabled Assad's forces to regain control of much of the territories they had lost to armed groups who worked to topple him.

Over 400,000 people have been killed and half of Syria's population displaced since peaceful protests in 2011 turned into a civil war stoked by foreign interventions.

## Xi's early involvement in virus outbreak raises questions

By YANAN WANG Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A recent speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping that has been published by state media indicates for the first time that he was leading the response to a new virus outbreak from early on in the crisis.

The publication of the Feb. 3 speech was an apparent attempt to demonstrate that the Communist Party leadership had acted decisively from the beginning, but also opens up the Chinese leader to criticism over why the public was not alerted sooner.

In the speech, Xi said he gave instructions on fighting the virus on Jan. 7 and ordered the shutdown that began on Jan. 23 of cities at the epicenter of the outbreak. His remarks were published by state media late Saturday.

"On Jan. 22, in light of the epidemic's rapid spread and the challenges of prevention and control, I made a clear request that Hubei province implement comprehensive and stringent controls over the outflow of people," Xi told a meeting of the party's standing committee, its top body.

The number of new cases in mainland China fell for a third straight day, China's National Health Commission reported Sunday. The 2,009 new cases in the previous 24-hour period brought the total to 68,500.

Commission spokesman Mi Feng said the percentage of severe cases had dropped to 7.2% of the total from a peak of 15.9% on Jan. 27. The proportion is higher in Wuhan, the Hubei city where the outbreak started, but has fallen to 21.6%.

"The national efforts against the epidemic have shown results," Mi said at the commission's daily media briefing.

Taiwan on Sunday reported its first death from the virus, the fifth fatality outside of mainland China. The island also confirmed two new cases, raising its total to 20.

Taiwan's Central News Agency reported that the person who died was a man in his 60s living in central Taiwan. He had not traveled overseas recently and had no known contact with virus patients, CNA said, citing Minister of Health and Welfare Chen Shih-chung.

China reported 142 more deaths, almost all in Hubei, raising mainland China's death toll to 1,665. Another 9,419 people have recovered from COVID-19, a disease caused by a new coronavirus, and have been discharged from hospitals.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe convened an experts meeting to discuss measures to contain the virus in his country, where more than a dozen cases have emerged in the past few days without any obvious link to China.

"The situation surrounding this virus is changing by the minute," Abe said.

Japanese Health Minister Katsunobu Kato said the country is "entering into a phase that is different from before," requiring new steps to stop the spread of the virus.

Hundreds of Americans on a quarantined cruise ship in Japan took charter flights home, as Japan announced another 70 infections had been confirmed on the Diamond Princess. Canada, Hong Kong and Italy said they were planning similar flights.

Japan now has 413 confirmed cases, including 355 from the cruise ship, and one death from the virus.

Xi's role was muted in the early days of the epidemic, which has grown into one of the biggest political challenges of his seven-year tenure.

The disclosure of his speech indicates top leaders knew about the outbreak's potential severity at least two weeks before such dangers were made known to the public. It was not until late January that officials said the virus can spread between humans and public alarm began to rise.

Zhang Lifan, a commentator in Beijing, said it's not clear why the speech was published now. One message could be that local authorities should take responsibility for failing to take effective measures after Xi gave instructions in early January. Alternatively, it may mean that Xi, as the top leader, is willing to take responsibility because he was aware of the situation, Zhang said.

Trust in the government's approach to outbreaks remains fractured after the SARS epidemic of 2002

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 54 of 64

and 2003, which was covered up for months.

Authorities in Hubei and Wuhan faced public fury over their initial handling of the epidemic. In apparent response, the Communist Party's top officials in Hubei and Wuhan were dismissed and replaced last week.

Hubei announced Sunday that all vehicle traffic will be banned across the province, expanding on an existing ban in Wuhan, in another step to try to stop the spread of the virus. Exceptions will be made for vehicles involved in epidemic prevention and transporting daily necessities.

The fall in new cases follows a spike of more than 15,000 announced on Thursday, when Hubei began to include those that had been diagnosed by a doctor but not yet confirmed by laboratory tests.

The roughly 380 Americans aboard the cruise ship docked at Yokohama, near Tokyo, were given the option of taking U.S.-government chartered aircraft back to the U.S., where they would face another 14-day quarantine. Around 300 of them left on buses Sunday night for flights from Tokyo's Haneda Airport to Travis Air Force Base in California and Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo said Washington was evacuating the Americans because the passengers and crew members on board the Diamond Princess were at a high risk of exposure to the virus. People with symptoms were banned from the flights.

About 255 Canadians and 330 Hong Kong residents are on board the ship or undergoing treatment in Japanese hospitals. There are also 35 Italians, of which 25 are crew members, including the captain.

Malaysia said it would not allow any more passengers from another cruise ship to transit the country after an 83-year-old American woman from the MS Westerdam tested positive for the virus.

She was among 145 passengers who flew from Cambodia to Malaysia on Friday. Her husband also had symptoms but tested negative. The Westerdam was turned away from four ports around Asia before Cambodia allowed it to dock in Sihanoukville late last week.

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said that her country would bar cruise ships that came from or transit any Chinese ports from docking.

Cambodia said earlier that all 1,455 passengers on the Holland America-operated ship had tested negative for the virus.

---

Associated Press writer Ken Moritsugu and researcher Henry Hou in Beijing and writers Yuri Kageyama and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo, Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Sopheng Cheang in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Frances D'Emilio in Rome and Rob Gillies in Toronto contributed to this report.

## Boyfriend of British TV presenter heartbroken by her death

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The boyfriend of Caroline Flack, the former British TV host for the controversial reality show "Love Island," said Sunday that his "heart is broken" at her death as criticism mounted over her treatment by some British media.

British commercial television network ITV said it would not air Sunday's edition of the show but that it would return on Monday with a tribute to its former host.

Flack, 40, was found dead Saturday at her home in east London after taking her own life, according to a family lawyer. Flack hosted "Love Island" from its launch in 2015 before stepping down in December after being charged with assaulting her 27-year-old boyfriend, Lewis Burton.

Flack denied the charge and was to stand trial next month. She was also not allowed to have any contact with Burton, a bail restriction he objected to. Burton also did not want Britain's Crown Prosecution Service to go ahead with the trial.

Over the past few months, Flack had been the focus of several negative articles and was trolled across social media for the assault charge. On Sunday, the story of her suicide dominated the front pages of British newspapers.

Beside a picture of them together, Burton said on Instagram that he was in "so much pain."

He added: "I promise I will ask all the questions you wanted and I will get all the answers nothing will

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 55 of 64

bring you back but I will try make you proud everyday.”

The sixth season of “Love Island” is currently airing and ITV said in a statement that it will not broadcast Sunday’s edition of the show. On Saturday, the commercial network did not air a package of unseen footage from the previous week.

“After careful consultation between Caroline’s representatives and the ‘Love Island’ production team, and given how close we still are to the news of Caroline’s tragic death, we have decided not to broadcast tonight’s ‘Love Island’ out of respect for Caroline’s family,” ITV said in a statement.

ITV said the show will return on Monday and that it will include “a tribute to Caroline who will be forever in our hearts.”

“Love Island” puts young, attractive contestants in a tropical paradise, where they must pair up or risk being exiled. Critics claim the program places vulnerable young people under intense scrutiny and pressure, which is magnified by blanket coverage of the show by tabloids and TV talk shows. Two former “Love Island” contestants, Sophie Gradon and Mike Thalassitis, died by suicide in 2018 and 2019.

Until her arrest, Flack had enjoyed a meteoric career rise after co-hosting Saturday morning children’s television shows. She also hosted companion shows to the popular ITV programs “I’m A Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!” and “The X Factor.”

Flack’s career blossomed further after she won the BBC show “Strictly Come Dancing” in 2014, the British version of “Dancing With The Stars.” While hosting “Love Island,” Flack made her West End stage debut in 2018, playing Roxie Hart in the musical “Chicago.”

Her death led to a flood of tributes from fellow TV hosts and criticism of her treatment by the media. The Sun tabloid, for example, removed negative online articles about her soon after her death was announced.

Talent agent Jonathan Shalit told BBC radio that Flack received “more negative press than a terrorist or a paedophile” over the trial.

“These people might be famous, but they’re still vulnerable individuals,” Shalit said.

By Sunday evening, an online petition calling for a government inquiry into “the practices and policies of mainstream media organisations and social media platforms in their efforts to protect members of the public from harm” had garnered more than 191,000 signatures.

The Crown Prosecution Service has also come under criticism for pushing ahead with the trial in the face of Burton’s opposition, particularly from Flack’s management’s company.

“The CPS should look at themselves today and how they pursued a show trial that was not only without merit but not in the public interest,” said Francis Ridley of Money Talent Management. “And ultimately resulted in significant distress to Caroline.”

Jill Lawless contributed.

## Democratic hopefuls now test strength among minority voters

By **BILL BARROW** and **TOM FOREMAN Jr.** Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — For I.S. Leevy Johnson, the Democrats’ search for a challenger to take on President Donald Trump is personal.

“There is what I call an ‘ABT mood’ in the black community: Anybody but Trump,” said the 77-year-old who was the first black graduate of the University of South Carolina’s law school. “It has people of color very motivated and excited about voting this time because they know how his administration has adversely affected them.”

Now, as the election calendar turns to Nevada and South Carolina, states with substantial minority populations, that “anybody” moves closer to being identified. But the next stage in the nominating fight will test candidates such as Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, and Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana. Their success thus far has come in front of overwhelmingly white electorates in Iowa and New Hampshire.

It’s also a potential last comeback opportunity for former Vice President Joe Biden. He finished poorly

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 56 of 64

in those first two contests but argues he has durable support among the minority voters who will soon make their choices.

Nevada's caucuses are this coming Saturday and will feature a growing population of Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Yet no single place in the early going is as important as South Carolina. Up to two-thirds of voters in the Feb. 29 primary could be African American. Biden, more than any other candidate, must show he can win their allegiance.

One candidate who will not be tested in Nevada or South Carolina is Mike Bloomberg, the former New York mayor and billionaire owner of a financial services and media empire. Bloomberg has spent heavily from his personal fortune in states with sizable minority populations that will vote in the March 3 primaries. The Super Tuesday contests are the first where his name will appear on the ballot.

It adds up to a muddled field that lacks clarity even after Iowa and New Hampshire had their turns., Moderates have splintered their votes and created space for Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, to take on the mantle of a front-runner without having reached 30% in either of the first two voting states.

That intensifies the spotlight as minority voters in Nevada and South Carolina in trying to clarify the party's search for "anybody" to match against Trump.

"The system is garbage," said Jason Johnson, a professor at Morgan State University and a high-profile African American political commentator. He argued that the primary calendar should immediately subject candidates not just to racial and ethnic diversity but also regional and ideological differences, and the full city-to-farm spectrum. "I'm not sure this process actually can identify the strongest candidate to defeat Donald Trump," he said.

Jason Johnson said he doesn't blame the candidates because they are merely reacting to a process "that harms everybody." But I.S. Leevy Johnson, the South Carolina businessman and lawyer, said it too easily makes key constituencies in the party an afterthought. "People of color are tired of these promises that candidates are going to do things, and when they make those promises, when they get elected, they don't perform," he said.

Even belatedly, the remaining candidates certainly are trying.

Sanders fell short in 2016 to Hillary Clinton for the nomination in no small part because of his struggles to attract older nonwhite voters. For 2020, he has hired as a senior adviser one of the top Latino strategists in the party, Chuck Rocha. Sanders' lead surrogates include Nina Turner, a former Ohio state lawmaker and leading black progressive, and U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, the young progressive icon. Sanders' campaign, buoyed by strong grassroots fundraising, has invested heavily in social media and radio advertising targeting black and Latino audiences, including stations on Spotify and Pandora.

"I think we're going to do very well in the African American community," Sanders said in a brief interview. "I think we're going to do well among working people of all races."

In Nevada, Biden campaigned on Saturday in a high school gymnasium covered in signs that read: "Biden Trabajando por Nevada" (Biden Works for Nevada). "The reason why we are here: 99% of the African American vote hasn't spoken yet and 99% of the Latino vote hasn't spoken yet." He hammered away at Trump's immigration policies and rhetoric.

But Biden has embraced South Carolina especially, even skipping out on his New Hampshire primary night party last Tuesday for a hastily arranged event in Columbia, the South Carolina capital.

Biden is banking on voters such as Jean Hopkins, an 88-year-old retired nurse, who came to hear him. "You'll lose some but you may gain more," she said of his losses in Iowa and New Hampshire. "And he's not going to stop. ... He needs our help."

Biden and Sanders lead in endorsements from members of South Carolina's Legislative Black Caucus. Biden also promotes a network of black religious leaders who back his candidacy. But he's facing a push from California billionaire Tom Steyer, who has spent considerable sums on advertising in South Carolina.

"We are really serious about South Carolina. We are really serious about Nevada," Steyer said on CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday. He said those states "reflect the kind of diversity that is America and that is the Democratic Party. And I think whoever is going to be the candidate has got to be able to show that



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 57 of 64

he or she can pull together that diverse big tent that is the Democratic Party.”

In Nevada, Biden has the backing of the state’s lone black congressman, Steven Horsford, and Dina Titus, who represents the diverse Las Vegas-based district.

But there’s a wild card in South Carolina.

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, the highest-ranking black member of Congress, is close to Biden but hasn’t said whether he will endorse at all. Clyburn is the rare political figure whose public blessing could matter to voters.

“I think that we’re going to have a real spirited contest,” Clyburn told CBS’ “Face the Nation” on Sunday. He said Steyer was “doing an incredible job. ... Money makes a difference. Steyer has it. He’s been spending it. And he’s reaping the rewards.” Clyburn added that Buttigieg is doing “very good” and Biden “is leading among African-American voters in South Carolina by a wide margin.”

Buttigieg is dispatching minority surrogates such as Mayor Quentin Hart of Waterloo, Iowa, and former Iowa state Rep. Deborah Berry. Bloomberg, in the same week he spent confronting criticism of his record on race, launched a “Mike for Black America” effort alongside black endorsers including Muriel Bowser, the mayor of Washington, D.C.

The chairman of the Texas Democratic Party, Gilberto Hinojosa, whose state is among the biggest delegate prizes on Super Tuesday, praised all the remaining candidates. But he lamented that several minority candidates, including some political heavyweights, were forced from the field either before voting began or after the first two contests. Among them: Julian Castro, a former Obama Cabinet secretary; Kamala Harris, a California senator; Cory Booker, a New Jersey senator; and Deval Patrick, a former Massachusetts governor.

In South Carolina, I.S. Leevy Johnson offered similar laments, noting that he had supported Harris and now must hope a white nominee selects her or another person of color as the vice presidential nominee. Regardless, Johnson projected optimism.

“I just don’t think people should misinterpret the impact of those two outcomes” in Iowa and New Hampshire, he said. Now, he said, the “sleeping giant” of nonwhite voters can emerge. “If the giant rises up and goes to battle in November, someone opposing Trump will be victorious.”

---

Barrow reported from Las Vegas and Columbia, South Carolina. Associated Press reporters Alan Fram in Washington and Meg Kinnard in Columbia contributed to this report.

---

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

---

This story has been corrected to reflect that Sanders’ surrogate Nina Turner is a former Ohio state lawmaker, not a former Virginia state lawmaker

## Home quarantine for travelers buys time as new virus spreads

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

On his return from China last week, Dr. Ian Lipkin quarantined himself in his basement. His wife now puts his food on the stairs. He’s run out of things to watch on Netflix. At odd hours, he walks in New York’s Central Park, keeping 10 feet away from others.

Lipkin is among hundreds of people in the U.S. and thousands around the world who, although not sick, live in semi-voluntary quarantine at home. With attention focused on quarantined cruise ships and evacuees housed on U.S. military bases, those in their own homes have largely escaped notice.

They, too, experts say, play a crucial role in slowing the spread of the new viral disease now called COVID-19.

Most cases and nearly all deaths have been in mainland China. Around the world, authorities are urging two weeks of home quarantine and symptom monitoring for travelers returning from there.

It’s the only tool they have.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 58 of 64

"We don't yet have a vaccine and we don't have approved drugs for prevention of disease or treatment of disease. So all we have is isolation," said Lipkin, who directs Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity.

An expert virus hunter, Lipkin was invited by Chinese health authorities to help assess the risk posed by COVID-19. He did similar work in China during the SARS outbreak in 2003.

"This is my second time in the slammer," said Lipkin, who spent time in quarantine then. He will end his confinement Tuesday, celebrating with a dry martini in public.

The numbers in home quarantine are constantly changing and hard to pin down. New York state, for instance, has received the names of more than 350 who recently returned from mainland China. Local health departments are monitoring them, recommending quarantine for those without known exposure to the virus.

State and U.S. guidelines sort people into high-, medium- and low-risk groups and have advice for each group, but local health departments have discretion in how to carry out the quarantines.

Authorities in Taiwan have fined those who violate quarantines, but so far U.S. officials are relying on people's sense of responsibility, though they have the power to order a quarantine and get help from police to enforce it. Breaking a quarantine order is a misdemeanor in most states. Violating a federal quarantine order can mean fines and imprisonment.

Some have put themselves in quarantine without an order from health authorities. In Highland, Indiana, Ken and Annie Zurek finished 15 days of self-imposed home quarantine Thursday.

"We grew together as a couple," Ken Zurek said. "I can't think of any other person I'd want to spend in quarantine together." Their confinement began after returning early from a trip to Chongqing, China, to meet their new granddaughter. Ken Zurek, a 63-year-old concrete business owner, had read up on the virus and added a 15th day to their quarantine "because I was a Boy Scout, always trying to be prepared and do the right thing."

Pat Premick, a 57-year-old executive coach who had been living in China, has been in self-quarantine in the Pittsburgh area since returning to the U.S. early this month. On Friday, she said she has two days left.

To keep busy, she's been doing puzzles, reading books and talking to friends in China who are going through the same thing. Since there aren't many people in the area where she's staying, she takes occasional walks. Friends have been leaving food for her outside, which she fetches after they walk away.

"I'm waving from the window," she said.

In Seattle, public health workers buy groceries to make sure the people stay comfortable while in home quarantine, bringing one person blueberries, bananas and hair conditioner. Another person confined to a motel room asked for and received an instant teapot to heat soup. The health department workers make sure people have Wi-Fi so they can work and stay connected to family. They arrange calls with counselors for those with anxiety.

Several hundred returning travelers are staying away from others while they monitor their symptoms in Seattle's King County, where the health department is spending about \$200,000 a week on efforts to contain the virus.

"It's a little bit crazy right now," said Dr. Meagan Kay, who heads King County's containment efforts.

In India, health authorities have advised a 28-day home quarantine for returning travelers, much longer than the two-week incubation period accepted elsewhere. In Kerala, a state in the southernmost tip of India with three confirmed cases of COVID-19, more than 2,300 people are quarantined at home. They are told to sleep wearing a medical mask and call a helpline if they feel stir crazy.

"It is absolutely boring to be in your room for 28 days," said Dr. Amar Fettle, who heads the response in Kerala.

In Nordmaling, Sweden, the owners of a Chinese restaurant said they are following health authorities' guidelines by voluntarily quarantining themselves after a trip to China. They are closing their restaurant until Feb. 27.

"It is to protect ourselves and our customers," Stanislav Maid told the newspaper Aftonbladet. He runs the restaurant with his wife, Zhou Weixiang. "I have gotten quite a lot of positive reactions from people

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 59 of 64

in the area who think it's good we take our responsibility."

In Shanghai, China, home quarantine for journalist Michael Smith of The Australian Financial Review newspaper, began when he returned from a trip to Hong Kong.

"I imagine this is how prison must feel," Smith said in an email to The Associated Press on Friday, two days into a 14-day confinement. Smith can work at home, but no visitors are allowed and guards are monitoring the only entrance to the housing compound where he lives. He's finding "an odd comfort" in not worrying about appointments and wearing track pants all day. "I'm treating this as a rare opportunity to read some books, binge watch some Netflix series and get some rest."

Israel's Health Ministry on Sunday extended a two-week home quarantine for people arriving from mainland China to include those who have recently spent time in Thailand, Macau, Singapore and Hong Kong.

In New York, Lipkin finds in the COVID-19 outbreak echoes of the movie "Contagion," for which he was chief science adviser. He has heard the movie has gained new popularity, and he hopes people are learning from it, washing their hands and listening to public health authorities.

He takes his temperature twice a day and reports by email to the medical officer at Columbia, which directed him into home confinement. Unlike others in his situation, he was able to send a swab sample from the back of his nose and throat to his own lab to test for the virus. The result was negative. No virus.

He uses an exercise bike, but most of the time, he works.

"There's more work than I can possibly do because not only am I running the laboratory at Columbia and writing and dealing with media, but I'm also running programs in China," he said. "I'm not getting a lot of sleep."

Lipkin and his wife, Katherine Lewis, are keeping their sense of humor. "My wife is terrific," he said. "She'll make dinner for me and leave it on the stairs and say, 'I'm putting it down here so I don't have to get your cooties.'"

"I hadn't heard the term 'cooties' in probably 50 years."

---

Associated Press writers Candice Choi in New York and Aniruddha Ghosal in Delhi contributed.

---

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

## Stop and frisk gets renewed attention in Bloomberg candidacy

By REGINA GARCIA CANO and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — David Ourlicht was a college student, walking down a street near campus, when he became one of millions of New Yorkers swept up in the era of stop and frisk.

A police officer accosted Ourlicht, deeming suspicious a bulge in his jacket. Police patted him down, told him to stand against a wall, emptied his pockets, finding nothing illegal, and accused him of lying about his address, according to court testimony. The 2008 encounter ended with a disorderly conduct summons, which was later dismissed.

Ourlicht was embarrassed, angry and rattled, but not surprised. Police encounters like that had become a cornerstone of policing under then-Mayor Mike Bloomberg and a fact of life for Ourlicht, who is of black and white heritage, and his friends growing up.

He later joined a lawsuit that helped curb stop and frisk and became a lawyer himself. But his experiences with police, which he says began with getting beaten and handcuffed at 15 while trying to go up to his apartment, still cast a shadow over his life today.

"Every day I get into my car, every day I decide to step out of my house, it's a psyching up that I have to do to myself," Ourlicht said. "It's always there."

New York's stop-and-frisk history is getting renewed attention as Bloomberg campaigns for the Democratic presidential nomination. Bloomberg long defended the practice, even after a federal judge found that the stops discriminated against those who were black or Latino. He abruptly apologized in November shortly

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 60 of 64

before announcing his White House bid and has largely sought to move past the issue.

That became difficult last week when a 2015 recording of Bloomberg resurfaced in which he said the way to bring down murder rates is to “put a lot of cops” in minority neighborhoods because that’s where “all the crime is.”

Bloomberg said the remarks “do not reflect my commitment to criminal justice reform and racial equity.” He has since gotten endorsements from some members of the Congressional Black Caucus. And as he campaigned in the South last week, many black voters said they weren’t offended by the comments and were more focused on finding a candidate who could beat President Donald Trump.

But the former mayor likely will face more questions about the practice as his campaign gains traction. Bloomberg is on the cusp of qualifying for Wednesday’s presidential debate, where his rivals are sure to pillory him on stop and frisk to blunt his rise and appeal to African Americans, who are a critical voting bloc in the Democratic primary.

Stop and frisk is a term for a tactic police have long used: accosting, questioning and sometimes patting down people who officers think might be doing something illegal, but the suspicions didn’t necessarily amount to probable cause for an arrest.

The New York Police Department began increasing its emphasis on stop and frisk in the mid-1990s, when Republican Rudy Giuliani was mayor. But stops soared under Bloomberg – who held office as a Republican and later an independent — rising from about 97,000 stops in 2002 to a high of about 685,000 in 2011. There were fewer than 13,500 stops last year, according to NYPD data.

Over 80% of the people stopped during the surge of stop and frisk were black or Latino.

They include Hawk Newsome, 42, who said he was stopped dozens of times while living in the Bronx when Giuliani, then Bloomberg, served as mayor.

Too often, people overlook the psychological effects of the policy, he added.

“We felt like these cops could murder us. They were pulling out weapons on us and pushing us against the wall. There was this anxiety — we could be killed at any time,” said Newsome, chairman of Black Lives Matter of Greater New York. “Just growing up in it, it made you feel hopeless, like, ‘Damn, this is all my life will ever be. This is how they treat me. Look at our schools, look at our police. My life isn’t worth much.’”

Police and Bloomberg insisted that the stops helped drive crime down to record-low levels and that the tactic was legal.

Critics said stop and frisk amounted to racial discrimination with little impact on crime. About 10% of stops led to arrests or summonses, and only about 1% to weapons seizures.

In 2013, a federal judge declared that New York City’s use of the stops had violated civil and constitutional rights.

Bloomberg’s administration appealed the ruling. His successor dropped the appeal and agreed to reforms and a court-appointed monitor.

It remains to be seen whether voters of color in and outside New York will see past the practice and give serious consideration to Bloomberg. But the national conversation in recent years about racial inequity in the criminal justice system could keep stop and frisk in focus during the rest of the campaign cycle.

“It’s complicated,” said Dayvon Love, director of public policy of the grassroots think tank Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle in Baltimore.

“I think there’s more of a recognition that that approach doesn’t work to solve the problem of violence and homicide in communities around the country,” he said, but some people living in neighborhoods plagued by violence “would see the strategy, not necessarily to the extreme of Bloomberg’s approach, as the best option available to them to meet their immediate needs.”

From Love’s perspective, black people who are politically well-connected and “more interested in their own personal success” could gravitate toward someone like Bloomberg.

Many young voters outside New York don’t know much about Bloomberg’s record as mayor.

But for Brandon Kolawole, 24, of Chicago, mention of stop and frisk triggers a response of familiarity and dread.

“I’ve seen it, and I’ve dealt with it,” said Kolawole, who is black. “If the police see you, they can just pull

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 61 of 64

you over, stop you and frisk you for whatever reason.”

Kolawole, who said he won't vote in November, knows “very little” about Bloomberg and his role in expanding the policy. Kolawole has seen the presidential candidate's ads on television promoting his work with former President Barack Obama but doesn't know much about the former mayor's time in office.

Warren Evans spent about 30 years in law enforcement in the Detroit area — six of those as a county sheriff and one as the city's police chief. On Thursday, he endorsed Bloomberg for the Democratic nomination for president.

Evans, who is black and has been Wayne County's elected executive for the past six years, understands the initial purpose of stop and frisk. But he says it failed because of “bad police practice and the inherent bias many officers have about communities of color.”

“I don't think it's going to resonate negatively over the long term” for Bloomberg, Evans told The Associated Press. “I agree with his final determination that when he looked at the data and understood what was going on, it wasn't good policy and it wasn't implemented well. But he has done what a lot of politicians don't do. He didn't fake an answer.”

Regina Garcia Cano reported from Baltimore and Jennifer Peltz from New York. Associated Press writers Corey Williams in Detroit, Noreen Nasir in Chicago and Jennifer McDermott in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed.

## California to apologize for internment of Japanese Americans

By CUNEYT DIL Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Les Ouchida was born an American just outside California's capital city, but his citizenship mattered little after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and the United States declared war. Based solely on their Japanese ancestry, the 5-year-old and his family were taken from their home in 1942 and imprisoned far away in Arkansas.

They were among 120,000 Japanese Americans held at 10 internment camps during World War II, their only fault being “we had the wrong last names and wrong faces,” said Ouchida, now 82 and living a short drive from where he grew up and was taken as a boy due to fear that Japanese Americans would side with Japan in the war.

On Thursday, California's Legislature is expected to approve a resolution offering an apology to Ouchida and other internment victims for the state's role in aiding the U.S. government's policy and condemning actions that helped fan anti-Japanese discrimination.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order No. 9066 establishing the camps was signed on Feb. 19, 1942, and 2/19 now is marked by Japanese Americans as a Day of Remembrance.

Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi was born in Japan and is one of the roughly 430,000 people of Japanese descent living in California, the largest population of any state. The Democrat who represents Manhattan Beach and other beach communities near Los Angeles introduced the resolution.

“We like to talk a lot about how we lead the nation by example,” he said. “Unfortunately, in this case, California led the racist anti-Japanese American movement.”

A congressional commission in 1983 concluded that the detentions were a result of “racial prejudice, war hysteria and failure of political leadership.” Five years later, the U.S. government formally apologized and paid \$20,000 in reparations to each victim.

The money didn't come close to replacing what was lost. Ouchida says his father owned a profitable delivery business with 20 trucks. He never fully recovered from losing his business and died early.

The California resolution doesn't come with any compensation. It targets the actions of the California Legislature at the time for supporting the internments. Two camps were located in the state — Manzanar on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada in central California and Tule Lake near the Oregon state line, the largest of all the camps.

“I want the California Legislature to officially acknowledge and apologize while these camp survivors

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 62 of 64

are still alive," Muratsuchi said.

He said anti-Japanese sentiment began in California as early as 1913, when the state passed the California Alien Land Law, targeting Japanese farmers who some in California's massive agricultural industry perceived as a threat. Seven years later the state barred anyone with Japanese ancestry from buying farmland.

The internment of Ouchida, his older brother and parents began in Fresno, California. Three months later they were sent to Jerome, Arkansas, where they stayed for most of the war.

Given their young ages at the time, many living victims such as Ouchida don't remember much of life in the camps. But he does recall straw-filled mattresses and little privacy.

Communal bathrooms had rows of toilets with no barriers between users. "They put a bag over their heads when they went to the bathroom" for privacy, said Ouchida, who teaches about the internments at the California Museum in Sacramento.

Before the last camp was closed in 1946, Ouchida's family was shipped to a facility in Arizona. When the family was freed, they took a Greyhound bus back to California. When it reached a stop sign near their community outside Sacramento, "I still remember the ladies on the bus started crying," Ouchida said. "Because they were home."

The resolution, co-introduced by California Assembly Republican Leader Marie Waldron of Escondido, makes a passing reference to "recent national events" and says they serve as a reminder "to learn from the mistakes of the past."

Muratsuchi said the inspiration for that passage were migrant children held in U.S. government custody over the past year.

Ouchida said Japanese families like his always considered themselves loyal citizens before and after the internments. He holds no animosity toward the U.S. or California governments, choosing to focus on positives outgrowths like the permanent exhibit at the California Museum that provides an unvarnished view of the internments.

"Even if it took time, we have the goodness to still apologize," he said.

## Wales bears the brunt as Storm Dennis hammers Britain

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Storm Dennis hammered Britain Sunday, bringing a month's worth of rain in just 48 hours to parts of South Wales, which bore the brunt of the country's second severe storm inside a week.

Rivers across Britain burst their banks and a number of severe flood warnings remained in place as authorities strove to get people to safety and to protect homes and businesses. The Met Office, Britain's meteorological service, said the disruption is set to carry through into Monday.

Major incidents have been declared in a number of areas in England and Wales as authorities mobilized resources to deal with the impact of the overflowing rivers that have cut off some communities.

A man in his 60s died after falling into the River Tawe in South Wales mid-morning and his body was found further along the river, Dyfed-Powys Police said on social media. Police said his death was not being treated as suspicious or being linked to the bad weather.

On Saturday, Storm Dennis was blamed for the deaths of two men who were pulled from the sea in separate searches off England's southeastern coast.

Dennis has been so intense that England posted a record number of flood warnings and alerts and a rare "red warning" for extremely life-threatening flooding was announced for South Wales.

The Met Office, Britain's meteorological service, only issues its highest red warning when it thinks the weather will be so dangerous there's a "risk to life" and that people must take immediate action to protect themselves. It was the first time a red warning has been sounded since December 2015.

Though the warning only lasted a few hours, South Wales Police declared a major incident as firefighters and rescue crews continued to help communities following multiple floods, landslides and evacuations. Nearby Gwent Police said residents of Skenfrith, Monmouthshire, were being advised to evacuate due to the flooding.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 63 of 64

The Met Office said the highest wind gust recorded was 91 mph (146 kph) at Aberdaron in north Wales on Saturday. It also said a total of 157.6 mm (6.1 inches) of rain fell at Crai Reservoir in the Welsh county of Powys over 48 hours to Sunday morning. One of the worst-hit areas in South Wales was the village of Nantgarw, Rhondda Cynon Taff, near Cardiff, which saw entire streets left underwater since the early hours of Sunday morning.

As the wet and windy weather started to clear across parts of the south and headed north and eastwards, the number of flood warnings across the U.K. declined but there were still around 360 of them in place Sunday, from the north of Scotland through to Cornwall in southwest England.

John Curtin, the executive director of flood and coastal risk management at the Environment Agency, said in a tweet that at one point during the day, England had the most flood warnings and lower-level alerts in force — 594 — than on any other day on record.

The local authority in Herefordshire, an English county that borders central Wales, declared a “major incident” amid widespread flooding and said it was focusing on making sure “vulnerable residents are evacuated.” West Mercia Police, also declared a “major incident” for Shropshire, another county in central England that borders Wales.

Flood warnings could remain in place for a while since much of Britain is still saturated from last week’s Storm Ciara, which left eight people dead across Europe.

Curtin from the Environment Agency said in a tweet that the “high but not exceptional” rainfall figures of the past 24 hours shows how the legacy of Storm Ciara has “driven the widespread significant flooding we’re seeing.”

Army personnel have been seconded to assist people in areas of West Yorkshire that were badly hit by flooding during last weekend’s Storm Ciara.

The British Red Cross said that with water levels expected to peak on Monday or Tuesday it was ready to respond across the country.

“British Red Cross have been liaising with relevant local authorities, offering to support people affected by Storm Dennis across the U.K.” its crisis response officer Georgie Timmins said.

There were transport disruptions too, with hundreds of flights cancelled due to the high winds while train services were repeatedly disrupted by flooding. Tens of thousands of passengers were being affected on what is a major travel weekend for British families as many schools close for a mid-winter break.

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Feb. 17, the 48th day of 2020. There are 318 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Feb. 17, 1801, the U.S. House of Representatives broke an electoral tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, electing Jefferson president; Burr became vice president.

On this date:

In 1815, the United States and Britain exchanged the instruments of ratification for the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812.

In 1863, the International Red Cross was founded in Geneva.

In 1864, during the Civil War, the Union ship USS Housatonic was rammed and sunk in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, by the Confederate hand-cranked submarine HL Hunley in the first naval attack of its kind; the Hunley also sank.

In 1933, Newsweek magazine was first published under the title “News-Week.”

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. forces invaded Eniwetok (ehn-eh-WEE’-tahk) Atoll, encountering little initial resistance from Imperial Japanese troops. (The Americans secured the atoll less than a week later.)

In 1964, the Supreme Court, in *Wesberry v. Sanders*, ruled that congressional districts within each state had to be roughly equal in population.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 230 ~ 64 of 64

In 1965, comedian Joan Rivers made her first appearance on "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson.  
In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon departed the White House with his wife, Pat, on a historic trip to China.

In 1986, Johnson & Johnson announced it would no longer sell over-the-counter medications in capsule form, following the death of a woman who had taken a cyanide-laced Tylenol capsule.

In 1988, Lt. Col. William Higgins, a Marine Corps officer serving with a United Nations truce monitoring group, was kidnapped in southern Lebanon by Iranian-backed terrorists (he was later slain by his captors).

In 1996, world chess champion Garry Kasparov beat IBM supercomputer "Deep Blue," winning a six-game match in Philadelphia (however, Kasparov lost to Deep Blue in a rematch in 1997).

In 2006, ten U.S. service members died when a pair of Marine Corps helicopters crashed off the coast of Africa.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama marked the one-year anniversary of the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, saying it had staved off another Great Depression and kept up to 2 million people on the job. Eight American missionaries charged with child kidnapping in Haiti were released after nearly three weeks in a Haitian jail. Americans Lindsey Vonn and Julia Mancuso captured gold and silver in the women's Olympic downhill in Vancouver. Actress Kathryn Grayson, 88, died in Los Angeles.

Five years ago: Vice President Joe Biden opened a White House summit on countering extremism and radicalization, saying the United States needed to ensure that immigrants were fully included in the fabric of American society to prevent violent ideologies from taking root at home.

One year ago: In an interview airing on CBS' "60 Minutes," former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe said a "crime may have been committed" when President Donald Trump fired the head of the FBI and tried to publicly undermine an investigation into his campaign's ties to Russia. George Mendonsa, the U.S. Navy sailor who was seen in an iconic photo kissing a woman in a nurse's uniform in New York's Times Square to celebrate the end of World War II, died in Rhode Island; he was 95.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Hal Holbrook is 95. Actor-comedian Barry Humphries (aka "Dame Edna") is 86. Country singer-songwriter Johnny Bush is 85. Actress Christina Pickles is 85. Football Hall of Famer Jim Brown is 84. Actress Brenda Fricker is 75. Actress Becky Ann Baker is 67. Actress Rene Russo is 66. Actor Richard Karn is 64. Actor Lou Diamond Phillips is 58. Basketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan is 57. Actor-comedian Larry, the Cable Guy is 57. TV personality Rene Syler is 57. Movie director Michael Bay is 56. Singer Chante Moore is 53. Rock musician Timothy J. Mahoney (311) is 50. Actor Dominic Purcell is 50. Olympic gold and silver medal skier Tommy Moe is 50. Actress Denise Richards is 49. Rock singer-musician Billie Joe Armstrong (Green Day) is 48. Rock musician Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters) is 48. Actor Jerry O'Connell is 46. Country singer Bryan White is 46. Actress Kelly Carlson is 44. Actor Ashton Holmes is 42. Actor Conrad Ricamora is 41. Actor Jason Ritter is 40. TV personality Paris Hilton is 39. Actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt is 39. TV host Daphne Oz is 34. Actor Chord Overstreet is 31. Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran is 29. Actress Meaghan Martin is 28. Actress Sasha Pieterse is 24.

Thought for Today: "Wounded vanity knows when it is mortally hurt; and limps off the field, piteous, all disguises thrown away. But pride carries its banner to the last; and fast as it is driven from one field unfurls it in another." — Helen Hunt Jackson, American author (1831-1885).

Copyright 2020, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.