

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 1 of 33

[1- Today on GDILIVE.COM](#)

[2- Big plays propel Tigers to win over Aberdeen  
Roncalli](#)

[3- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)

[4- Upcoming Events](#)

[5- Weather Pages](#)

[8- Daily Devotional](#)

[9- 2020 Groton Events](#)

[10- News from the Associated Press](#)



It's Girls' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Webster Area  
Bearcats**

**VS**



**Groton Area Tigers**

AT WEBSTER

6:30 p.m.: Girls JV Game - sponsored by Larry & Kathy Harry

8:00 p.m.: Girls Varsity Game

Sponsored by

Locke Electric of Groton

and the South Dakota Army National Guard

**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 2 of 33

## Big plays propel Tigers to win over Aberdeen Roncalli

It was a night of big plays that propelled the Tigers to a 63-59 win over Aberdeen Roncalli Monday night in Groton.

The fourth quarter featured Cade Guthmiller making two big baskets inside the paint and Kaden Kurtz stealing the ball twice and going in for the layup.

The game featured 10 lead changes with most of them coming late in the third quarter and early in the fourth quarter. The Cavaliers held an 11-point advantage with 4:52 to go in the second quarter, 27-16. Roncalli led at the end of the first quarter, 21-14, and at half time, 34-26. Groton Area took a 47-46 lead into the fourth quarter.

Brodyn DeHoet, who scored all of his points in the first three quarters, finished with a double-double with 24 points, 10 rebounds and one steal. Jonathan Doeden had 12 points, one rebound, three assists, four steals and one block shot. Cade Guthmiller had 13 points, one assist, three steals and one block shot. Kaden Kurtz finished with 11 points, three rebounds, two assists and two steals. Austin Jones had two points and one assist. Jayden Zak had one point and two rebounds. Isaac Smith had one rebound, two assists and one steal. Lane Tietz had one steal and Tristan Traphagen had one assist.

Groton Area made 20 of 35 field goals for 59 percent, two of 17 three-pointers for 12 percent, 17 of 22 free throws for 77 percent off of Roncalli's 19 team fouls, had only five turnovers compared to 16 for Roncalli, the Tigers had 10 assists, 12 steals and two block shots.

Gray Impery led the Cavaliers with 28 points. Dawson Hoellein made four three-pointers in the first quarter and finished with 23 points. Brian Holmstrom had five and Zeezroom Mounnga had two points.

The Cavaliers made 21 of 32 field goals for 66 percent and was nine of 13 from the line off of Groton Area's 14 team fouls.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 40-19. Scoring for Groton Area: Lane Tietz 10, Wyatt Hearnen 9, Jayden Zak 9, Chandler Larson 6, Isaac Smith 3, Tristan Traphagen 2 and Jackson Cogley 1.

The Tigers made it a clean sweep with a 49-26 C game win. Scoring for Groton Area: Tate Larson 16, Cole Simon 11, Ethan Gengerke 8, Jacob Zak 5, Wyatt Hearnen 4 and Kaleb Hanten 3.

Groton Area is now 13-3 on the season and the Cavaliers drop to 0-18.

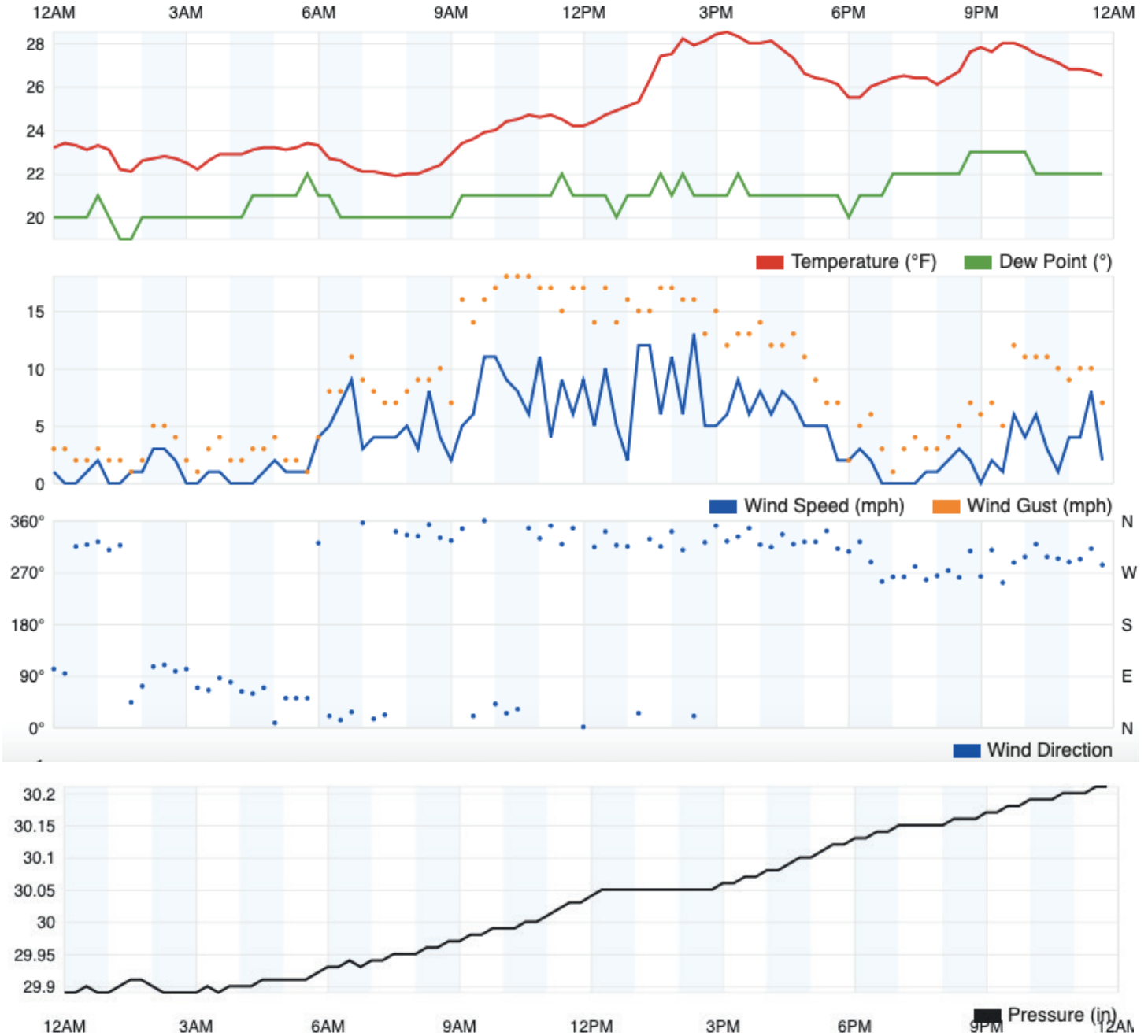
All three games were carried live on GDILIVE.COM. The C game was sponsored by Sperry Stump Removal. The junior varsity game was sponsored by Ronayne Law Office and the Varsity game was sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals,, Blocker Construction, Groton Dairy Queen, Jark Real Estate, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises and Tyson DeHoet Trucking.

- Paul Kosel

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 3 of 33

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 4 of 33

## Upcoming Events

### **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

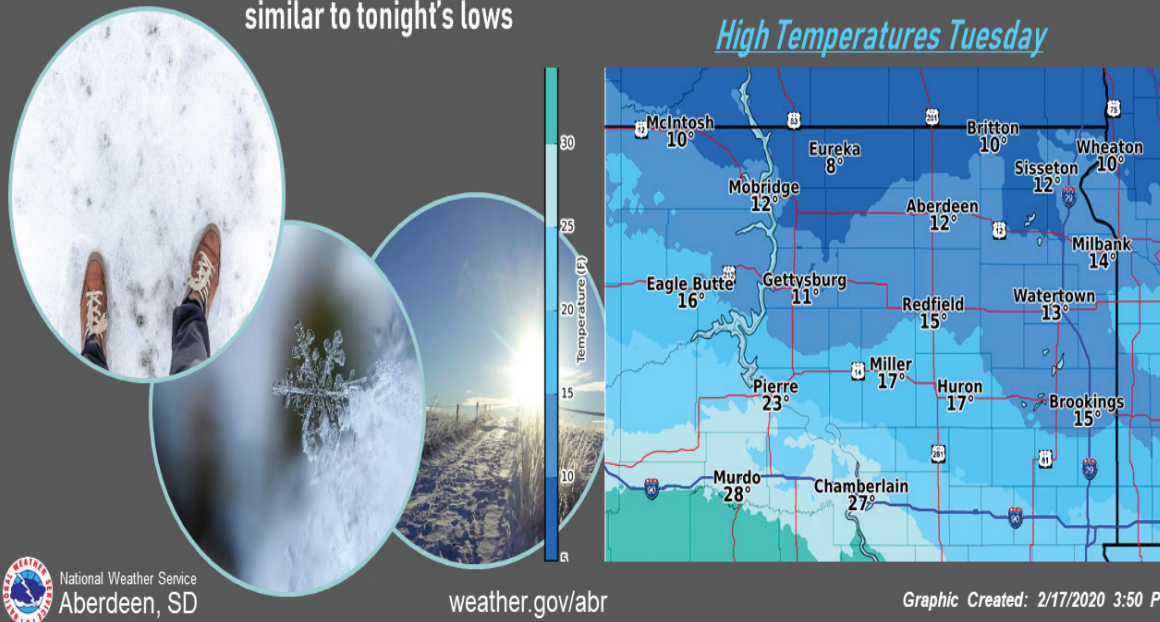
Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 5 of 33

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
				
Slight Chance Snow then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Cold	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 13 °F ↓	Low: -14 °F	High: 6 °F	Low: -10 °F	High: 19 °F

## COLDER WEATHER BEGINS

- **Tonight:** Low temperatures in the single digits (teens in/southwest of Pierre)
- **Tuesday:** Breezy in the morning with light snow and drifting snow possible.
- **Wednesday:** Cold. Morning temps -15 to 0 degrees with wind chills of -10 to -25. Highs similar to tonight's lows

### High Temperatures Tuesday



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/abr

Graphic Created: 2/17/2020 3:50 PM

Cold air settles in tonight, gets a reinforcing shot Tuesday, and then bottoms out Wednesday. Dry this week with the possible exception of light snow Tuesday morning. All this said, near average temperatures return Thursday and may rise to above freezing across the board Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 6 of 33

## Today in Weather History

February 18, 1962: It started raining in the afternoon of the 18th, and by evening temperatures dropped to below freezing resulting in a glaze up to three-quarters of an inch on trees and power lines. Many utility lines were downed by the glaze or by falling trees and branches. Temperatures continued to drop during the night, changing the rain to snow by the 19th. Strong winds accompanied this snow causing local blizzard conditions.

1965: A massive avalanche kills 26 men at the Granduc Copper Mine in British Columbia on this day.

1992: A thunderstorm spawned an unusually strong F4 tornado for so far north for the time of the year in southern Van Wert County in Ohio. The tornado touched down just west of US Route 127 and traveled northeastward for about 3 miles. One house was completely leveled, and nine others experienced severe damage. Six people were injured.

1899 - While much of the central and eastern U.S. was recovering from the most severe cold wave of modern history, the temperature at San Francisco soared to 80 degrees to establish a record for month of February. (David Ludlum)

1959 - Some of the higher elevations of California were in the midst of a five day storm which produced 189 inches of snow, a single storm record for North America. (13th-19th) (David Ludlum)

1987 - A small but intense low pressure system combined with northerly upslope winds to produce eight inches of snow in five hours at Meeteetsie WY, located southeast of Cody. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms soaked the Central Gulf Coast Region with heavy rain. Totals in southern Louisiana ranged up to 8.50 inches near the town of Ridge, with 6.55 inches at Plaquemine. Thunderstorms in northern Florida drenched Apalachicola with 5.41 inches of rain in 24 hours, and produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Mayo. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Low pressure off the coast of North Carolina brought freezing rain and heavy snow to Virginia and the Carolinas. Snowfall totals in Virginia ranged up to 18 inches at Franklin. Freezing rain reached a thickness of two inches around Charlotte NC. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - An intense but slow moving Pacific storm worked its way across Utah over a two day period. The storm blanketed the valleys with 4 to 12 inches of snow, and produced up to 42 inches of snow in the mountains. Heavy snow also fell across northern Arizona. Williams received 22 inches of snow, and 12 inches was reported along the south rim of the Grand Canyon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

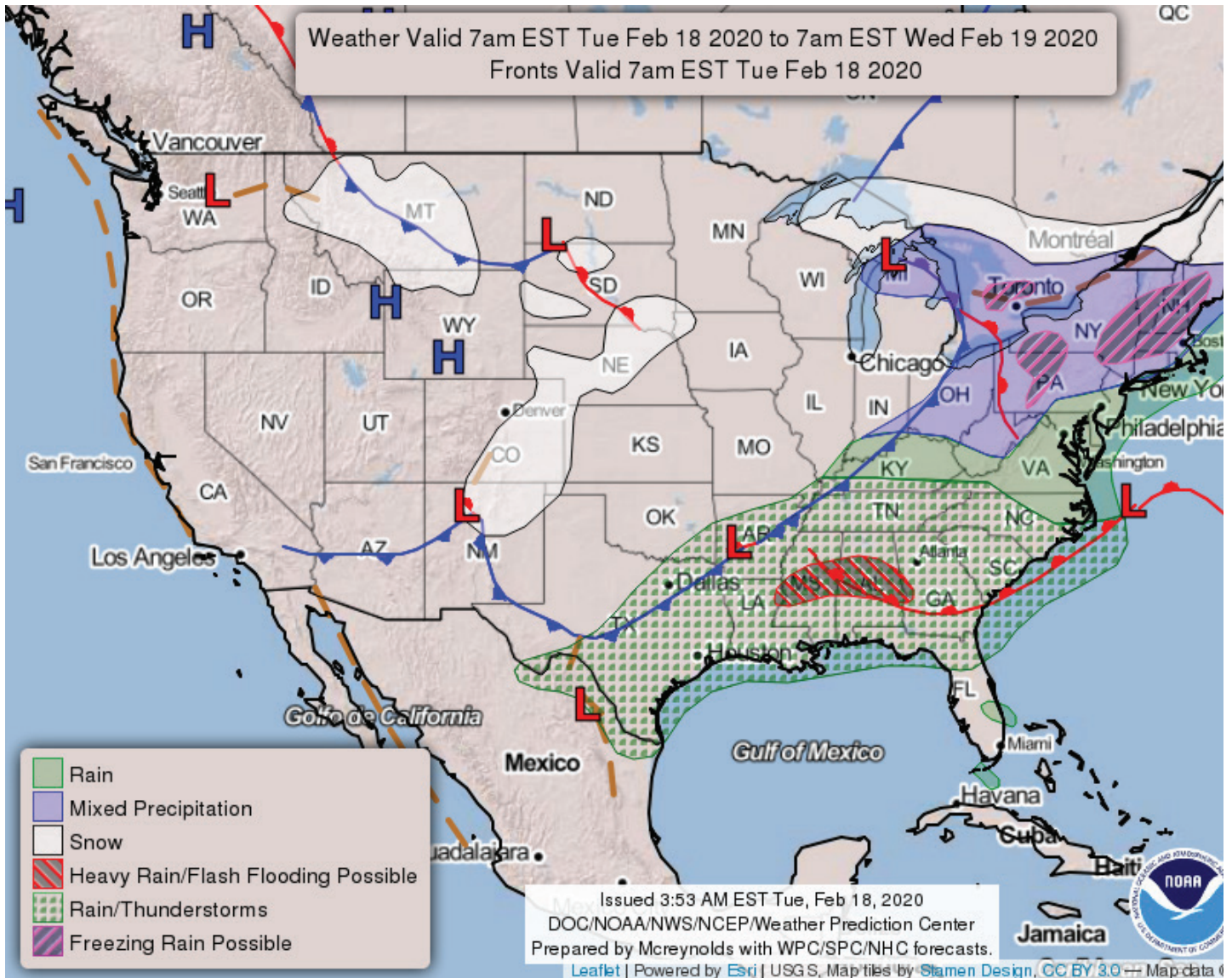
# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 7 of 33

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 29 °F at 3:09 PM**  
**Low Temp: 22 °F at 7:47 AM**  
**Wind: 19 mph at 11:02 AM**  
**Snow**

**Record High: 67° in 1913**  
**Record Low: -32° in 1903**  
**Average High: 29°F**  
**Average Low: 8°F**  
**Average Precip in Feb.: 0.29**  
**Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 0.76**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.35**  
**Sunset Tonight: 6:05 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:30 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 8 of 33



## REMAIN FAITHFUL

Years ago I fulfilled one of my lifelong dreams when I visited Yellowstone National Park. Many of my friends who had visited the park told me of the majesty and power of the geysers as they exploded into the air, sending steam and spray skyward.

The geyser that fascinated me the most, however, was not the largest geyser, nor the smallest geyser, nor did it spout water higher than the other geysers. It is the world's most famous geyser: Old Faithful! Its fame is found in its name because of its faithfulness.

There are times when we envy others for the power and prestige associated with their names or the skills and talents that God has given them. Perhaps we envy them because of their fame and notoriety. We may even resent them for the things that they can do and the things we cannot do. We become angry with God for blessing them more than we think He has blessed us. We become filled with jealousy and bitterness and believe that God has "His favorites." Not true! He gives us each of the talents we need to do what He has designed for us to do. It is not about His favorites but about our faithfulness.

In the final analysis, it's never about favorites but about our being faithful to Him, to do what He has called us to do with the talents and gifts He has given us. "He who is faithful," scripture reminds us, "will be given the Crown of Life."

Prayer: We ask, Father, that no matter what You call us to be or do, we will remain faithful to You at all times and in all places. Give us courage and commitment! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Revelation 2:10 But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 9 of 33

## 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

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 10 of 33

## News from the Associated Press

### Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

#### BOYS BASKETBALL=

Aberdeen Christian 54, Viborg-Hurley 49  
Arlington 58, Colman-Egan 57  
Crow Creek 67, Mobridge-Pollock 54  
Dell Rapids St. Mary 72, Elkton-Lake Benton 60  
Flandreau Indian 72, Centerville 58  
Gayville-Volin 56, Avon 48  
Groton Area 63, Aberdeen Roncalli 59  
Howard 58, Canistota 42  
Iroquois 70, Estelline/Hendricks 66  
Kadoka Area 65, Wall 44  
Lake Preston 46, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 40  
Lemmon 75, Tiospaye Topa 52  
Parkston 61, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 51  
Platte-Geddes 61, Scotland 36  
Sioux Falls Washington 53, Watertown 38  
Sioux Valley 77, Parker 67  
Timber Lake 54, North Central Co-Op 24  
Tiospa Zina Tribal 59, Deuel 36  
Vermillion 64, Madison 57  
Wolsey-Wessington 51, Mitchell Christian 18

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL=

Avon 54, Gayville-Volin 32  
Colman-Egan 45, Arlington 31  
Crow Creek 79, Mobridge-Pollock 48  
Estelline/Hendricks 62, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 31  
Flandreau Indian 48, Centerville 38  
Gregory 53, Colome 39  
Hanson 56, Bon Homme 41  
Harding County 52, Bison 50  
Highmore-Harrold 61, Iroquois 25  
Hitchcock-Tulare 67, Kimball/White Lake 58  
Howard 63, Canistota 43  
Lemmon 77, Tiospaye Topa 19  
McCook Central/Montrose 54, Tri-Valley 39  
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 67, James Valley Christian 39  
Timber Lake 42, North Central Co-Op 39, OT  
Waubay/Summit 49, Waverly-South Shore 36  
White River 61, St. Francis Indian 43  
Wilmot 47, Hankinson, N.D. 42

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

## Sioux Falls-area 4th grader dies from flu complications

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A fourth-grade student in the Sioux Falls area has died from complications related to the flu.

Rylon Anderson died Sunday after he was admitted to the hospital on Friday, said West Central School District Superintendent Brad Berens. Rylon had Influenza A and is the first known child in the state to die from the flu this season.

Prior to Rylon's death, South Dakota had reported seven other flu-related deaths this season. The health department's summary from Feb. 8 says all of those deaths were people age 50 and older.

It was not immediately known if Rylon had been vaccinated.

Berens told the Argus Leader that the school district's crisis response team members, additional grief counselors and support staff will be on hand Tuesday to help students and staff cope with the loss.

Berens said he and his employees spend hours helping students learn life lessons, but when a student dies, "this is just one of those times when you find yourself at a loss."

South Dakota has had more than 7,500 lab confirmed cases of the so far, with more than 260 people hospitalized, the latest data states. Flu activity is considered high and widespread.

## At halfway mark, South Dakota lawmakers focus on the money

By **STEPHEN GROVES** Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers said they would turn their focus to the state budget this week as they hit the halfway mark in the 2020 session, though Republicans and Democrats laid out different visions of how to use that money.

Legislators settled on roughly \$1.74 billion in revenue to use in setting the state budget — an increase of \$19 million from Gov. Kristi Noem's projection in December. Once combined with federal funding and other state funds, the budget will likely total more than \$5 billion.

But Democrats, who hold just three spots on the committee that decides the size of the budget, were not pleased with the final projections, saying Republicans were being too cautious with the estimates.

Democrats want the state to fund inflationary pay increases for teachers, state employees and service care providers. They are also asking Republican colleagues, who hold a supermajority in both houses of the Legislature, to consider making a one-time allotment of \$32 million from the state's education trust fund.

It's a move they hope will show voters in November's election there should put a few more "D's" on the Legislature's roster.

"There's only one party that's addressing education funding in Pierre," said Rep. Ryan Cwach, a Yankton Democrat.

Democrats hold the fewest numbers of seats in the Capitol since the 1950's, meaning they have to win Republican support for any proposal.

Republicans said they are doing a fine job running things, though they will also be paying close attention to the budget process now that revenue figures are set.

Sen. Jim Bolin, a Canton Republican, said balancing the budget and maintaining the "basic programs" of state government would ensure they retain their traditional dominance.

The state's constitution requires a balanced budget. Bolin said the state's fiscal conservatism and low taxes are good for business.

Legislators will get one more glimpse of how much money to expect when revenue reports come in the last few weeks of the session. So far this year, revenue has been higher than expected, but spring flooding is looming over the state's agriculture industry, leading some lawmakers to be cautious about the state's financial outlook.

## Homeland Security waives contracting laws for border wall

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Trump administration said Tuesday that it will waive federal contracting laws to speed construction of a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Department of Homeland Security said waiving procurement regulations will allow 177 miles (283 kilometers) of wall to be built more quickly in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The 10 waived laws include requirements for having open competition, justifying selections and receiving all bonding from a contractor before any work can begin.

The acting Homeland Security secretary, Chad Wolf, is exercising authority under a 2005 law that gives him sweeping powers to waive laws for building border barriers.

"We hope that will accelerate some of the construction that's going along the Southwest border," Wolf told Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends" on Tuesday.

Secretaries under President Donald Trump have issued 16 waivers, and President George W. Bush issued five, but Tuesday's announcement marks the first time that waivers have applied to federal procurement rules. Previously they were used to waive environmental impact reviews.

The Trump administration said it expects the waivers will allow 94 miles (150 kilometers) of wall to be built this year, bringing the Republican president closer to his pledge of about 450 miles (720 kilometers) since taking office and making it one of his top domestic priorities. It said the other 83 miles (133 kilometers) covered by the waivers may get built this year.

"Under the president's leadership, we are building more wall, faster than ever before," the department said in a statement.

The move is expected to spark criticism that the Trump administration is overstepping its authority, but legal challenges have failed. In 2018, a federal judge in San Diego rejected arguments by California and environmental advocacy groups that the secretary's broad powers should have an expiration date. An appeals court upheld the ruling last year.

Congress gave the secretary power to waive laws in areas of high illegal crossings in 2005 in a package of emergency spending for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and minimum standards for state-issued identification cards. The Senate approved it unanimously, with support from Joe Biden, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. The House passed it with strong bipartisan support; then-Rep. Bernie Sanders voted against it.

The waivers, to be published in the Federal Register, apply to projects that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will award in six of nine Border Patrol sectors on the Mexican border: San Diego and El Centro in California; Yuma and Tucson in Arizona; El Paso, which spans New Mexico and west Texas, and Del Rio, Texas.

The administration said the waivers will apply to contractors that have already been vetted. In May, the Army Corps named 12 companies to compete for Pentagon-funded contracts.

The Army Corps is tasked with awarding \$6.1 billion that the Department of Defense transferred for wall construction last year after Congress gave Trump only a fraction of the money. The administration has been able to spend that money during legal challenges.

## Whitey Bulger juror says she regrets murder conviction

By MICHAEL REZENDES Associated Press

EASTHAM, Mass. (AP) — The notorious crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger terrorized Boston from the 1970s into the 1990s with a campaign of murder, extortion, and drug trafficking, then spent 16 years on the lam after he was tipped to his pending arrest.

In 2013, Janet Uhlar was one of 12 jurors who found Bulger guilty in a massive racketeering case, including involvement in 11 murders, even after hearing evidence that the mobster was helped by corrupt agents in the Boston office of the FBI.

But now Uhlar says she regrets voting to convict Bulger on any of the murder charges.

Her regret stems from a cache of more than 70 letters Bulger wrote to her from prison, some of which

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 13 of 33

describe his unwitting participation in a secret CIA experiment with LSD. In a desperate search for a mind control drug in the late 1950s, the agency dosed Bulger with the powerful hallucinogen more than 50 times when he was serving his first stretch in prison — something his lawyers never brought up in his federal trial.

"Had I known, I would have absolutely held off on the murder charges," Uhlar told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "He didn't murder prior to the LSD. His brain may have been altered, so how could you say he was really guilty?" At the same time, Uhlar says she would have voted to convict Bulger on the long list of other criminal counts, meaning he still would likely have died in prison.

Uhlar has spoken publicly about her regret before but says her belief that the gangster was wrongly convicted on the murder charges was reinforced after reading a new book by Brown University professor Stephen Kinzer: "Poisoner in Chief: Sidney Gottlieb and the CIA Search for Mind Control." The book digs into the dark tale of the CIA's former chief chemist and his attempts to develop mind control techniques by giving LSD and other drugs to unsuspecting individuals, including colleagues, and observing the effects.

"It was encouraging to know I wasn't losing my mind, thinking this was important," Uhlar said. "It told me, this is huge. I mean, how many lives were affected by this? We have no idea."

Gottlieb's secret program, known as MK-ULTRA, enlisted doctors and other subcontractors to administer LSD in large doses to prisoners, addicts and others unlikely to complain. In Bulger's case, the mobster and fellow inmates were offered reduced time for their participation and told they would be taking part in medical research into a cure for schizophrenia.

"Appealed to our sense of doing something worthwhile for society," Bulger wrote in a letter to Uhlar reviewed by the AP.

But nothing could have been further from the truth.

"The CIA mind control program known as MK-ULTRA involved the most extreme experiments on human beings ever conducted by any agency of the U.S. government," Kinzer said. "During its peak in the 1950s, that program and its director, Sidney Gottlieb, left behind a trail of broken bodies and shattered minds across three continents."

After Bulger was found guilty by Uhlar and the other jurors, a federal judge sentenced him to two life terms plus five years. But his life behind bars ended a little more than a year ago, at age 89, when he was beaten to death by fellow inmates shortly after arriving in his wheelchair at the Hazelton federal prison in Bruceton Mills, West Virginia. No criminal charges have been filed.

Although much had been written about the CIA's mind control experiments before Bulger's trial, Uhlar said she knew nothing about them until she began corresponding with the renowned gangster following his conviction.

Uhlar started writing Bulger, she said, because she was troubled by the fact that much of the evidence against him came through testimony by former criminal associates who were also killers and had received reduced sentences in exchange for testifying against their former partner in crime.

"When I left the trial, I had more questions," she said.

After Bulger started returning her letters, Uhlar noticed he often dated them with the time he had started writing in his tight cursive style. "He always seemed to be writing at one, two, or three in the morning and when I asked him why, he said it was because of the hallucinations," Uhlar said.

When Uhlar asked him to explain, Bulger revealed what he had already told many others: that since taking part in the LSD experiments at a federal prison in Atlanta, he'd been plagued by nightmares and gruesome hallucinations and was unable to sleep for more than a few hours at a time.

"Sleep was full of violent nightmares and wake up every hour or so — still that way — since '57," he wrote.

"On the Rock at times felt sure going insane," he wrote in another letter, referring to the infamous former prison on Alcatraz Island, in San Francisco Bay, where he was transferred from Atlanta. "Auditory & visual hallucinations and violent nightmares — still have them — always slept with lights on helps when I wake up about every hour from nightmares."

The mobster also recalled the supervising physician, the late Carl Pfeiffer of Emory University, and the technicians who would monitor his response to the LSD, asking him questions such as, "Would you ever

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 14 of 33

kill anyone? Etc., etc.”

That questions struck a nerve with Uhlar. After hearing from Bulger about MK-ULTRA, “as if I should have known about it,” she visited him at a Florida federal prison on three occasions to discuss the experiments and started reading everything she could find about them.

At one point, she reviewed the 1977 hearings by the U.S. Senate Committee on Intelligence, which was looking into MK-ULTRA following the first public disclosures of the top-secret program.

The hearings included testimony from CIA director Stansfield Turner, who acknowledged evidence showing that the agency had been searching for a drug that could prepare someone for “debilitating an individual or even killing another person.”

“That’s just horrifying, in my opinion,” Uhlar said. “It opens up the question of whether he was responsible for the murders he committed.”

According to at least two of the several books written about Bulger and his life of crime, associates including corrupt former FBI agent John Morris said they assumed Bulger would use the LSD experiments to mount an insanity defense, if he were ever caught and tried.

But in 2013 Bulger’s Boston attorneys, J.W. Carney Jr. and Hank Brennan, unveiled a novel defense in which they admitted Bulger was a criminal who made “millions and millions of dollars” from his gangland enterprise, but was enabled by corrupt law enforcement officers, especially those in Boston office of the FBI.

Neither Carney nor Brennan would comment on their decision — attorney client privilege outlasts a client’s death. But Anthony Cardinale, a Boston attorney who has represented numerous organized crime defendants, said he would have opted for an insanity defense, in part because of the abundant evidence against Bulger.

“I would have had him come into court like Harvey Weinstein, all disheveled, and in a wheelchair,” he said.

Still, Cardinale acknowledged there would have been challenges to presenting an insanity defense, including the fact that Bulger spent 16 years out-witting several law enforcement agencies, before he was captured in 2011 in Santa Monica, Calif., where he’d been living quietly with his longtime girlfriend while on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted List.

“The problem is, he lived for a very long time on the lam in a very secretive and a very smart way,” Cardinale said. “But that doesn’t diminish the notion that, based on the LSD experiments, and the doses he was experiencing, he could have convinced himself of things that were not true, including that he had immunity from prosecution and could do whatever he wanted.”

To his dying day, Bulger insisted he’d received criminal immunity from a deceased federal prosecutor who once headed the New England Organized Crime Strike Force.

John Bradley, a former Massachusetts federal prosecutor and assistant district attorney, agreed that defense lawyers would have faced high hurdles waging an insanity defense, noting that most end in convictions.

“The flip side is that jurors are sometimes swayed by morality more than legality,” he said. “The whole shtick that the government played a role in creating this monster, uses him as an informant and then goes after him — that’s an argument that could affect one or two jurors.”

And it only takes one to vote not guilty on all the criminal charges to produce a hung jury, Bradley noted, forcing prosecutors to decide whether to retry a case.

Given Bulger’s decades as a crime boss who corrupted the Boston office of the FBI, paying cash and doing favors in exchange for information that helped him thwart multiple investigations, a retrial would have been a near certainty. Nevertheless, Cardinale said, a hung jury in the Bulger case “would have been a monster victory” for the defense.

Even if Bulger were convicted on the other criminal charges and received a sentence that would have kept him behind bars for life, a refusal to find him guilty on the murder charges would have meant anguish for family members of his victims.

“As in any case involving a tragic murder, a conviction of the perpetrator helps family member obtain closure and move on with their lives,” said Paul V. Kelly, a former federal prosecutor who has represented

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 15 of 33

the family of one of Bulger's murder victims. "An acquittal of Whitey Bulger on the murder charges would have just caused additional pain and anguish."

Uhlar has written about the Bulger trial in "The Truth be Damned," a fictionalized account she published in 2018 and advertises on her website. She also gives occasional talks on the trial at community centers and libraries.

During her correspondence and visits with Bulger, Uhlar said, she grew fond of the gangster, though he often warned her that he was a criminal and "master manipulator." When asked if Bulger might have manipulated her, she said, "I've asked myself that many times. I'll finish reading a letter and say, 'Could he have?'"

Bulger often wrote to Uhlar as if she were a friend, even joking with her. But in one letter he also enclosed a more menacing message inscribed to her on the back of a photo taken of him on "the Rock," at a time when he was fending off LSD-induced nightmares while contemplating his return to Boston's violent criminal underworld.

"At end of Alcatraz, getting more serious and capable of about anything," he wrote. "Hard time makes hard people."

---

AP investigative researcher Randy Herschaft in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Associated Press investigative reporter Michael Rezendes at <https://twitter.com/mikerezendes>

---

Contact AP's Global Investigations team at [Investigative@ap.org](mailto:Investigative@ap.org)

## Quarantine on cruise ship in Japan comes under question

By **MARIA CHENG** and **MARI YAMAGUCHI** Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — An extraordinary two-week quarantine of the Diamond Princess cruise ship ends Wednesday, with thousands of passengers and crew set to disembark over the next several days in the port of Yokohama, near Tokyo.

A growing number of scientists, however, say the ship served as an incubator for a worrying new virus from China instead of a quarantine facility meant to prevent the worsening of an outbreak that has sickened tens of thousands.

As of Tuesday, 542 cases of the virus have been identified among the 3,711 quarantined passengers and crew, making the ship the site of the most infections outside of China.

The question now is: Why?

The Japanese government has repeatedly defended the effectiveness of the quarantine. But some scientists suggest that it may have been less than rigorous.

In a possible sign of lax quarantine protocols, three Japanese health officials who helped in the quarantine checks on the ship were also infected.

"I suspect people were not as isolated from other people as we would have thought," said Dr. Paul Hunter, a professor of medicine at the University of East Anglia in England.

Japan's health minister, Katsunobu Kato, told reporters Tuesday that all passengers who remained on the cruise ship have had their samples taken and that those who tested negative would start getting off the vessel beginning Wednesday, when their required 14-day quarantine is scheduled to end.

"They all want to go home as early as possible, and we hope to assist them so that everyone can get home smoothly," Kato said.

The process is expected to take until Friday because of the large number of people involved.

"Obviously the quarantine hasn't worked, and this ship has now become a source of infection," said Dr. Nathalie MacDermott, an outbreak expert at King's College London.

She said the exact mechanism of the virus' spread was unknown.

"We need to understand how the quarantine measures on board were implemented, what the air filtration on board is like, how the cabins are connected and how waste products are disposed of," MacDermott said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 16 of 33

"There could also be another mode of transmission we're not familiar with," she said, noting the possibility of environmental spread and the importance of "deep-cleaning" the entire ship to prevent people from touching contaminated surfaces.

During the 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS, a related virus, experts discovered that more than 300 people were infected through a defective sewage system in a Hong Kong housing estate. MacDermott said it was possible there was a similar issue aboard the Diamond Princess, but that a full investigation was needed.

"There's no reason this should not have worked if it had been done properly," she said.

Some passengers on the Diamond Princess described the ship as a "floating prison" but were allowed to walk on the decks every day while wearing a mask and were told to keep their distance from others.

Hunter, the medicine professor, said the continued spread of the virus could be due to compliance problems.

"It's difficult to enforce a quarantine in a ship environment and I'm absolutely sure there were some passengers who think they're not going to let anyone tell them what they can and cannot do," he said.

Hunter said it was "a huge disappointment" that the quarantine hadn't curbed the spread of the virus and that it was unfortunate some passengers returning to their home countries would now face a second period of isolation.

"Given how the virus has continued to spread, we have to presume everyone leaving the ship is potentially infected, and therefore they have to go through another two-week quarantine period," he said. "Not to do so would be reckless."

Japanese health officials say a 14-day quarantine on the ship is adequate, citing results that all but one of more than 500 Japanese returnees from Wuhan, the epicenter of the virus in China, who initially tested negative were also found to be virus-free at the end of their 14-day quarantine at government facilities.

Those officials also have defended precautions taken on the ship. About 1,000 crew members were told to wear surgical masks, wash their hands, use disinfectant sprays and stop operations at restaurants, bars and other entertainment areas after Feb. 5, when the first group of 10 infected people were reported and the official start of the 14-day quarantine was announced.

Dr. Michael Ryan, the chief of emergencies at the World Health Organization, said earlier this month that the agency was working with Japanese officials to help passengers get off the ship as soon as possible.

"It's really important that there's an appropriate risk management approach being taken here," he said last week. He reminded countries of their obligations to respect the human rights of travelers and said they were working to ensure that "we don't end up with an unfortunate consequence of people having to stay too long in that situation."

Passengers were instructed to stay in their cabins and not walk around or contact other passengers. Those in windowless cabins could go out on the deck to take a walk or exercise for about an hour each day.

The two-week quarantine was largely for the passengers, because crew members kept sharing double rooms with their colleagues, and they continued to serve the guests by delivering food, letters, towels and amenities, and entering passenger cabins for cleaning. Crew members also cooked their own food and ate in groups in a crew mess hall.

"Unlike passengers, crew members share their rooms, they share food, and that's why some of them are infected even after the quarantine started," Shigeru Omi, a former regional director for the World Health Organization, said at a recent news conference.

Omi said quarantine is one of the measures considered effective early on. But the virus has already made its way into local communities across Japan, where untraceable cases have been popping up already, he said.

At this stage, "the spreading of the virus will be inevitable, and that's why quarantine is out of the question," Omi said.

He said the focus now should shift from border control to preventing the spread in local communities.

Other scientists said that passengers should have been removed from the boat from the beginning.

"Boats are notorious places for being incubators for viruses," said Arthur Caplan, a professor of bioeth-



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 17 of 33

ics at the New York University School of Medicine. "It's only morally justified to keep people on the boat if there are no other options."

Caplan said that a second quarantine was justified, but that officials had done a poor job of explaining from the outset what would happen if their original plan failed.

"It's never good to lose your civil liberties and your rights of movement, but two more weeks of quarantine is not an undue burden if you're trying to protect spread of a disease," he said.

Cheng reported from London.

## Virus claims life of hospital director in hard-hit Wuhan

By YANAN WANG Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — As a mysterious new virus enveloped central China's Wuhan early this year, Liu Zhiming mobilized all the resources of his hospital in the city's Wuchang district to deal with the thousands of sick people arriving daily, threatening to overwhelm the local health care system.

That dedication appears to have cost him his life, with Wuhan's health bureau announcing Tuesday that he became infected and died despite "all-out" attempts to save him.

Liu is at least the seventh health worker to die of the COVID-19 disease among the more than 1,700 doctors and nurses who have become sick. His death comes as authorities are cautiously cheering a reduction in the number of new daily cases and deaths, along with the results of a study showing most people who contracted the virus experienced only mild symptoms.

China on Tuesday reported 1,886 new cases and 98 more deaths. That raised the number of deaths in mainland China to 1,868 and the total number of confirmed cases to 72,436.

"Now the prevention and control work is at a critical time," President Xi Jinping told British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in a phone call Tuesday, according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

Japan, meanwhile, announced that 88 more cases of the virus were confirmed aboard a quarantined cruise ship, the Diamond Princess, bringing the total to 542 among the 3,700 initially on board.

The U.N. secretary general told The Associated Press that the virus outbreak "is not out of control but it is a very dangerous situation."

Antonio Guterres said in an interview in Lahore, Pakistan, that "the risks are enormous and we need to be prepared worldwide for that."

The outbreak has caused massive disruptions and China may postpone its biggest political meeting of the year to avoid having people travel to Beijing while the virus is still spreading. One of the automotive industry's biggest events, China's biannual auto show, also is being postponed, and many sports and entertainment events have been delayed or canceled.

Despite strict rules on use of masks and safety suits, medical workers have been prominent among the victims, particularly in the early stage of the outbreak.

In announcing Liu's death, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission said he had taken part in the battle against the virus from the start and had made "important contributions in the work of fighting and controlling" the virus.

During that process, "unfortunately he became infected and passed away at 10:54 Tuesday morning at the age of 51 after all-out efforts to save him failed," the commission said.

The Hubei native had graduated from Wuhan University's School of Medicine in 1991 and went on to a career as a chief physician, neurosurgeon and administrator.

Earlier this month, public outrage was stirred by the death from the virus of Wuhan doctor Li Wenliang, who had been threatened by police after releasing word of an outbreak of an unusual respiratory illness in December before it had spread widely and the city was placed under quarantine.

Wuhan and its surrounding cities in Hubei province have accounted for the vast majority of infections and deaths, prompting the government to enforce a travel ban that has spread to other parts of the country and now includes a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine period for anyone traveling outside their home dis-

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 18 of 33

trict. Two new prefabricated hospitals have been built to deal with the overflow in Wuhan and thousands of medical staff have been brought in from other parts of the country to help.

A study by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention found more than 80% of the cases studied were mild and the number of new infections seemed to be falling since early this month. World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said it was too early to know if the reported decline would continue, however. "Every scenario is still on the table," he said at a news conference.

The seeming drop in the number of new cases follows a large spike last week after Hubei province began counting cases by doctors' diagnoses without waiting for laboratory test results. Health authorities there said the change was meant to get patients treated faster.

The Chinese study examined 44,672 cases of the disease that were confirmed in the mainland as of Feb. 11. Severe symptoms such as pneumonia occurred in 14% of them and critical illness in 5%. The fatality rate was 2.3% — 2.8% for males versus 1.7% for females.

The death rate is lower than for SARS and MERS, diseases caused by coronaviruses related to the one that causes COVID-19. But the new virus ultimately could prove more deadly if it spreads to far more people than the others did. The COVID-19 cases include relatively few children, and the risk of death rises with age or other health problems and was higher in Hubei province versus elsewhere in China.

The study warned that while cases seem to have been declining since Feb. 1, that could change as people return to work and school after the Lunar New Year holidays, typically the biggest travel period for Chinese travelers. Beijing and other governments have sought to forestall that by extending the holiday break, encouraging telecommuting and self-quarantines and conducting health checks on travelers.

Travel to and from the worst-hit central China region was associated with the initial cases of COVID-19 confirmed abroad. But Japan, Singapore and South Korea have identified new cases without clear ties to China or previously known patients, raising concern of the virus spreading locally.

The largest number of cases outside China is the 542 among passengers and crew of the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantined at a port near Tokyo. The infections have led to heavy criticism of the decision to quarantine passengers on the vessel.

The U.S. evacuated 328 American passengers, with most of them placed in a 14-day quarantine at military bases in California and Texas. Thirteen who tested positive for the virus were taken to a hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said any more passengers who show symptoms will be taken to hospitals.

---

Associated Press writers Maria Cheng in London and Marilynn Marchione, David Pitt, Olga R. Rodriguez and Ken Miller in the U.S. contributed to this report.

---

This story removes incorrect timing of the Chinese auto show, which alternates yearly between Beijing and Shanghai. It also corrects that 13 cruise passengers who tested positive for the virus were taken to a hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, not to hospitals in Nebraska and California.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. BOY SCOUTS FILE FOR BANKRUPTCY Barraged by hundreds of sex-abuse lawsuits, the 110-year-old organization hopes to work out a potentially mammoth victim compensation plan that could total \$1 billion.

2. WHO QUALIFIED FOR NEVADA DEBATE Billionaire Mike Bloomberg, marking the first time he'll stand alongside the Democratic rivals he has so far avoided by bypassing the early voting states.

3. VIRUS CLAIMS LIFE OF HOSPITAL DIRECTOR Liu Zhiming had mobilized all the resources of his hospital in Wuhan city, at the center of the outbreak, as the death toll in mainland China climbs to 1,868.

4. WHERE VIRUS IS HITTING THE WALLET HARD Palestinian markets have long been flooded by low-

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 19 of 33

cost Chinese goods and traders in the West Bank fear that they will have to switch to more expensive alternatives in an already weakened economy.

5. **WHITEY BULGER JUROR HAS 2ND THOUGHTS** Janet Uhlar says she regrets convicting the Boston crime boss for murder after revelations that he was an unwitting participant in a secret CIA experiment that gave him LSD while he was in prison.

6. **AL-SISTANI'S PASSING COULD CREATE VACUUM** As the powerful Iraqi cleric ages, Iran is likely to try to exploit the void to gain more followers among Iraq's Shiites, ambition complicated by Iraq's wave of protests since October.

7. **TRUMP CAMPAIGN ENLISTS KAREN PENCE** The vice president's wife is seen as an asset in one of the areas where they most need help — with suburban woman.

8. **THRILLING DAYTONA 500 ENDS WITH HORRIFIC CRASH** Denny Hamlin wins his second straight at the famed speedway, surging past Ryan Newman on the final lap of a second overtime shootout, the win coming as Newman's car flipped in a fiery wreck.

9. **NISSAN SHAREHOLDERS VENT OUTRAGE** They blame the Japanese automaker's top management for crashing stock prices, zero dividends and quarterly losses after the scandal-ridden departure of former chairman Carlos Ghosn.

10. **TAYLOR SWIFT'S FATHER SAFE AFTER FIGHT WITH BURGLAR** The pop star's father recently tussled with an intruder who broke into his \$4 million Florida penthouse, a newspaper is reporting.

## **Bloomberg makes debate stage, facing Dem rivals for 1st time**

**By KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press**

Billionaire Mike Bloomberg has qualified for the upcoming Democratic presidential debate, marking the first time he'll stand alongside the rivals he has so far avoided by bypassing the early voting states and using his personal fortune to define himself through television ads.

A new NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll published Tuesday shows Bloomberg with 19% support nationally in the Democratic nominating contest.

The former New York City mayor, who launched his presidential campaign in November, will appear in Wednesday's debate in Las Vegas alongside former Vice President Joe Biden, Sens. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Amy Klobuchar and former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Fellow billionaire and philanthropist Tom Steyer is still hoping to qualify.

Bloomberg's campaign said that it was seeing "a groundswell of support across the country" and that qualifying for Wednesday's debate "is the latest sign that Mike's plan and ability to defeat Donald Trump is resonating with more Americans."

"Mike is looking forward to joining the other Democratic candidates on stage and making the case for why he's the best candidate to defeat Donald Trump and unite the country," Bloomberg campaign manager Kevin Sheekey said in a statement.

The Democratic National Committee recently changed its rules for how a candidate qualifies for the debate, opening the door for Bloomberg to be on stage and drawing the ire of some candidates who dropped out of the race for failing to make prior stages. The candidates were previously required to receive a certain number of campaign contributions to qualify, but Bloomberg, who is worth an estimated \$60 billion, is not taking donations.

The prime-time event will be a stark departure from Bloomberg's highly choreographed campaign. He's poured more than \$300 million into television advertising, a way to define himself for voters without facing criticism. While he's campaigned in more than two dozen states, he does not take questions from voters and delivers a standard stump speech that lasts less than 15 minutes, often reading from a teleprompter.

He encounters the occasional protester, including one who jumped on stage recently in Chattanooga, Tennessee, yelling, "This is not democracy. This is a plutocracy!" But his friendly crowds usually quickly overwhelm the protesters with chants of "We like Mike!"

Bloomberg is likely to face far more direct fire in the debate. His fellow Democratic contenders have

stepped up their attacks against him in recent days, decrying him for trying to “buy the election” and criticizing his support of the “stop-and-frisk” tactic while mayor of New York City that led police to target mostly black and Hispanic men for searches.

Bloomberg has barely crossed paths on the trail with his fellow Democrats. He decided to skip the first four voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina in favor of focusing on the 14 states that vote on March 3 and the contests that come afterward.

He rarely mentions his rivals by name, though his campaign is centered on the idea that none of them can beat President Donald Trump. And Bloomberg, more than anyone, has predicated his campaign on a potential Biden collapse. He’s been aggressive in targeting African American voters in the South, a core demographic for Biden’s campaign.

Biden said he doesn’t think “you can buy an election.”

“I’m going to get a chance to debate him on everything from redlining to stop and frisk to a whole range of other things,” Biden told reporters last week.

The poll released Tuesday shows Sanders leading in the Democratic primary contest, at 31% support nationally. After Bloomberg at 19%, Biden is at 15%, Warren at 12%, Klobuchar at 9% and Buttigieg at 8%. Steyer is at 2%, and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard is at less than 1%, with 5% undecided.

The telephone survey of 527 Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents was conducted by the Marist Poll at the Marist Institute for Public Opinion. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 5.4 percentage points.

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

## **Boy Scouts file for bankruptcy due to sex-abuse lawsuits**

**By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer**

Barraged by hundreds of sex-abuse lawsuits, the Boy Scouts of America filed for bankruptcy protection Tuesday in hopes of working out a potentially mammoth victim compensation plan that will allow the halved, 110-year-old organization to carry on.

The Chapter 11 filing in federal bankruptcy court in Wilmington, Delaware, sets in motion what could be one of the biggest, most complex bankruptcies ever seen. Scores of lawyers are seeking settlements on behalf of several thousand men who say they were molested as scouts by scoutmasters or other leaders decades ago but are only now eligible to sue because of recent changes in their states’ statute-of-limitations laws.

By going to bankruptcy court, the Scouts can put those lawsuits on hold for now. But ultimately they could be forced to sell off some of their vast property holdings, including campgrounds and hiking trails, to raise money for a compensation trust fund that could surpass a billion dollars.

The bankruptcy petition listed the Boy Scouts’ assets as between \$1 billion and \$10 billion, and its liabilities at \$500 million to \$1 billion.

“Scouting programs will continue throughout this process and for many years to come,” the Boy Scouts said in a statement. “Local councils are not filing for bankruptcy because they are legally separate and distinct organizations.”

The Boy Scouts are just the latest major American institution to face a heavy price over sexual abuse. Roman Catholic dioceses across the country and schools such as Penn State and Michigan State have paid out hundreds of millions of dollars in recent years.

The bankruptcy represents a painful turn for an organization that has been a pillar of American civic life for generations and a training ground for future leaders. Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout has long been a proud accomplishment that politicians, business leaders, astronauts and others put on their resumes and in their official biographies.

The Boy Scouts’ finances have been strained in recent years by declining membership and sex-abuse settlements.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 21 of 33

The number of youths taking part in scouting has dropped below 2 million, down from more than 4 million in peak years of the 1970s. The organization has tried to counter the decline by admitting girls, but its membership rolls took a big hit Jan. 1 when The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — for decades a major sponsor of Boy Scout units — cut ties and withdrew more than 400,000 scouts in favor of programs of its own.

The financial outlook had worsened last year after New York, Arizona, New Jersey and California passed laws making it easier for victims of long-ago abuse to file claims. Teams of lawyers across the U.S. have been signing up clients by the hundreds to sue the Boy Scouts.

Most of the newly surfacing cases date to the 1960s, '70s and '80s; the organization says there were only five known abuse victims in 2018. The Boy Scouts credit the change to an array of prevention policies adopted since the mid-1980s, including mandatory criminal background checks and abuse-prevention training for all staff and volunteers, and a rule that two or more adult leaders be present during all activities.

In many ways, the crisis parallels the one facing the Catholic Church in the U.S. Both institutions boast of major progress over recent decades in combating abuse, whether by priests or scout leaders, but both face many lawsuits alleging negligence and cover-ups, mostly decades ago.

"We are outraged that there have been times when individuals took advantage of our programs to harm innocent children," said Roger Mosby, the BSA's president and CEO. "While we know nothing can undo the tragic abuse that victims suffered, we believe the Chapter 11 process, with the proposed trust structure, will provide equitable compensation to all victims while maintaining the BSA's important mission."

The BSA said it is encouraging all victims to come forward to file a claim in the case. A deadline for filing claims has not yet been set by the bankruptcy court, but the BSA said that would likely happen later this year.

Among other matters to be addressed in bankruptcy court: the fate of the Boy Scouts' assets; the extent to which the organization's insurance will help cover compensation; and whether assets of the Scouts' 261 local councils will be added to the fund.

"There are a lot of very angry, resentful men out there who will not allow the Boy Scouts to get away without saying what all their assets are," said lawyer Paul Mones, who represents numerous clients suing the BSA. "They want no stone unturned."

Amid the crush of lawsuits, the Scouts recently mortgaged the major properties owned by the national leadership, including the headquarters in Irving, Texas, and the 140,000-acre Philmont Ranch in New Mexico, to help secure a line of credit.

Founded in 1910, the Boy Scouts have kept confidential files since the 1920s listing staff and volunteers implicated in sexual abuse, for the avowed purpose of keeping predators away from youth. According to a court deposition, the files as of January listed 7,819 suspected abusers and 12,254 victims.

Until last spring, the organization had insisted it never knowingly allowed a predator to work with youths. But in May, The Associated Press reported that attorneys for abuse victims had identified multiple cases in which known predators were allowed to return to leadership posts. The next day, Boy Scouts chief executive Mike Surbaugh wrote to a congressional committee, acknowledging the group's previous claim was untrue.

James Kretschmer of Houston, among the many men suing for alleged abuse, says he was molested by a Scout leader over several months in the mid-1970s in the Spokane, Washington, area. Regarding the bankruptcy, he said, "It is a shame because at its core and what it was supposed to be, the Boy Scouts is a beautiful organization."

"But you know, anything can be corrupted," he added. "And if they're not going to protect the people that they've entrusted with the children, then shut it down and move on."

Ahead of the Chapter 11 filing, lawyers said that because of the organization's 50-state presence, as well as its ties to churches and civic groups that sponsor scout troops, a bankruptcy by the Boy Scouts would be unprecedented in its complexity. It would be national in scope, unlike the various Catholic Church bankruptcy cases, which have unfolded diocese by diocese.

"A Boy Scout bankruptcy would be bigger in scale than any other child abuse bankruptcy we've ever seen," said Seattle-based attorney Mike Pfau, whose firm is representing scores of men nationwide alleging they were abused as Boy Scouts.

Associated Press video journalist John Mone in Houston contributed.

## Hamlin and Newman contrast risk and reward at Daytona 500

By JENNA FRYER AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — In a single thrilling lap around NASCAR's most storied track, Denny Hamlin and Ryan Newman displayed the risks and rewards of the dangerous sport they both love.

Hamlin won his second consecutive Daytona 500 and third in five years on Monday night as he surged past Newman on the final lap of a second overtime shootout. The win came as Newman's car was turned hard into the wall, then flipped onto its roof, where he was helpless as he was hit in the driver's side by another car.

His car continued to skid upside down along the speedway and it crossed the finish line in flames as safety crews hurried to snuff out the fire and pry Newman loose. It took several minutes for his car to be rolled back onto its wheels, and medical personnel used solid black barriers to block the view as the 2008 Daytona 500 winner was placed in a waiting ambulance and taken to a hospital.

All the while, a sense of dread settled over Daytona and its showcase race, already pushed back a day by rain that dampened a raucous visit by President Donald Trump. There has not been a fatality in NASCAR's elite Cup Series since 2001, but Newman's crash had everyone worried.

The damage to his Mustang was extensive — it appeared the entire roll cage designed to protect his head had caved — and officials would not allow his team near the accident site. Two agonizing hours after the crash, NASCAR read a statement from Roush Fenway Racing that said Newman was in "serious condition, but doctors have indicated his injuries are not life threatening."

Hamlin, meanwhile, was trying to find the delicate balance of celebrating a milestone victory while showing proper respect to an injured driver. Initially unaware of Newman's situation, Hamlin did victory burnouts and celebrated with his team.

Not until Fox Sports said it would not interview him did Hamlin learn the severity of the situation. Team owner Joe Gibbs was apologetic for the No. 11 team's initial reaction.

"I was focusing on our car, and everybody started celebrating around us," Gibbs said. "So I say to everybody out there, some people may have saw us and said, 'Well, these guys are celebrating when there's a serious issue going on.' I apologize to everybody, but we really didn't know."

The crash was a stark reminder of both the dangers of auto racing and the improvements NASCAR has made since 2001, when Dale Earnhardt was killed on the final lap of the Daytona 500. Earnhardt was the last Cup driver killed in a race and NASCAR has made massive safety improvements in the nearly 20 years since.

"I think we take for granted sometimes how safe the cars are," Hamlin said. "But number one, we are praying for Ryan."

During the long wait for an update, Trump took to Twitter to express his concern. A day earlier, he attended the race as the grand marshal, gave the command for drivers to start their engines and made a ceremonial pace lap around Daytona International Speedway before rain washed out the race.

"Praying for Ryan Newman, a great and brave @NASCAR driver! #PrayingForRyan," Trump tweeted. Newman was one of several NASCAR drivers who attended a 2016 rally for then-candidate Trump in Georgia.

Mark Rushbrook, global director of Ford Performance Motorsports, acknowledged the delay for information on Newman.

"To hear some positive news tonight is a relief," Rushbrook said. "He is so respected for being a great competitor by everyone in the sport."

Newman had taken the lead on the final lap when Ryan Blaney's bumper caught the back of his Ford

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 23 of 33

and sent Newman hard right into the wall. His car flipped, rolled, was hit on the driver's side by another car, and finally skidded across the finish line in flames.

Drivers were stricken with concern, including Hamlin, the first driver since Sterling Marlin in 1995 to win consecutive Daytona 500's.

"It's a weird balance of excitement and happiness for yourself, but someone's health and their family is bigger than any win in any sport," he said. "We are just hoping for the best."

Runner-up Blaney said he got a push from Hamlin that locked him in behind Newman in a move of brand alliance for Ford.

"We pushed Newman there to the lead and then we got a push from the 11 ... I was committed to just pushing him to the win and having a Ford win it and got the bumpers hooked up wrong," he said.

Hamlin had eight Ford drivers lined up behind him as the leader on the second overtime shootout without a single fellow Toyota driver in the vicinity to help him. It allowed Newman to get past him for the lead, but the bumping in the pack led to Newman's hard turn into the wall.

Hamlin's win last year was a 1-2-3 sweep for Joe Gibbs Racing and kicked off a yearlong company celebration in which Gibbs drivers won a record 19 races and the Cup championship. Now his third Daytona 500 win puts him alongside six Hall of Fame drivers as winners of three or more Daytona 500s. He tied Dale Jarrett — who gave JGR its first Daytona 500 win in 1993 — Jeff Gordon and Bobby Allison. Hamlin trails Cale Yarborough's four wins and the record seven by Richard Petty.

This victory came after just the second rain postponement in 62 years, a pair of red flag stoppages and two overtimes. The 0.014 margin of victory was the second closest in race history, trailing only Hamlin's win over Martin Truex Jr. in 2016 (0.01 seconds)

The win in "The Great American Race" is the third for Toyota, all won by Hamlin. Gibbs has four Daytona 500 victories as an owner.

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

## China's closed: Palestinian traders fear losing a good deal

By JOSEPH KRAUSS and MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH Associated Press

HEBRON, West Bank (AP) — The West Bank city of Hebron is separated from the epicenter of China's virus outbreak by more than 4,000 miles and a ring of Israeli checkpoints. But even here the economic symptoms of the outbreak are starting to appear.

Palestinian markets have long been flooded by low-cost Chinese goods. Traders in Hebron, the largest Palestinian city and a commercial hub for the territories, fear that if the outbreak and quarantine efforts continue they will have to switch to more expensive alternatives, passing higher prices on to consumers in an already weakened economy.

Their concerns point to the potential for wide-ranging ripple effects from the outbreak in China, the world's largest exporter. The health crisis has already thrown the global travel industry into chaos and threatened to disrupt supply chains around the world that depend on China. That a city deep inside the Israeli-occupied West Bank is so reliant on Chinese goods illustrates the perils of global economic integration.

The illness, recently named COVID-19, first emerged in December in the central Chinese city of Wuhan. Since then, the virus — a new type of coronavirus — has spread to about two dozen countries and infected more than 73,000 people. It has caused more than 1,800 deaths, nearly all in China. No cases have yet been identified in Israel or the Palestinian territories, but merchants have felt the impact and fear the worst is yet to come.

Samer Abu Eisha, a children's clothes wholesaler in Hebron, has been importing from China for more than two decades. He has a permit from Israel that allows him to fly from Ben Gurion International Airport to China's Guangzhou province every two months so he can place orders with factories there and supervise output.

But business ground to a halt last month as the outbreak gathered pace. Israel and neighboring Jordan

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 24 of 33

have suspended all flights to China, shipments have been put on hold, and Abu Eisha says his agent in China is confined to his home because of a local quarantine.

If the situation continues he'll have to explore other options. The effects will vary from business to business, with some already feeling the pinch and others preparing to switch up supply lines — and raise prices — in the coming months.

"There is an alternative in Turkey, but it's not the same. It's not the same quality or the same workmanship or the same price," he said. "It's hard because all the raw materials also come from China, so things will be more expensive."

He estimates he'll have to raise prices by up to 30%, which could pose difficulties in the local market. Decades of Israeli restrictions have hindered economic development in the West Bank, leaving many Palestinians reliant on low-cost imports.

"The economy here is terrible. In Palestine it's zero, or less than zero," Abu Eisha said.

Bilal Dwaik, another Hebron merchant who imports women's clothing from China, was supposed to travel there later this month but had to cancel his trip because of the outbreak. He says if it continues the effects will be felt across the region.

"The economies of the whole Arab world are not productive, they aren't self-sufficient," he said. "It's all dependent on imported goods, on Chinese goods."

Palestinian traders began flocking to China in the 1990s after the Oslo accords with Israel allowed the newly created Palestinian Authority to pursue an independent trade policy.

More than \$33 million of Chinese goods were imported in 1998. A decade later that figure had quadrupled, and in 2018 total imports from China reached \$425 million, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

The imports have taken a heavy toll on local manufacturers, especially Hebron's famous shoemaking industry, which even produced boots for the Israeli army until the military switched to a U.S. supplier a few years back.

Abdo Idrees, the head of Hebron's Chamber of Commerce, says the number of factory workers making shoes has plummeted from 35,000 in the mid-1990s to fewer than 8,000 today.

"The world is intertwined," Idrees said. "The entire world is relying on China and no alternative has emerged."

Shifa Abu Saadeh, the general director of the Palestinian Economy Ministry, says some 700 factories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were shuttered in the 1990s alone. The Palestinian Authority has tried to stem the tide by imposing tariffs of up to 35% on imported goods, but competitively priced Chinese imports still fill local shelves.

The penetration of Chinese goods can be seen in the bazaar in Hebron's Old City, where the narrow stone alleys are lined with shops selling ceramics, embroidery and other souvenirs, much of it imported.

Abdelkarim al-Karaki says about half the souvenirs in his shop come from China — even the keffiyehs, which are the traditional Palestinian checkered scarf that the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat almost always wore and made famous.

His high-end products are manufactured locally, often by artisans engaged in traditional handicrafts. But the least expensive options are from China.

He recently went to a local trader to order more Chinese merchandise — only to find that none was available.

"He said China's closed. That will have a huge impact on my business if it continues," he said.

Others in the Old City said they would welcome the loss of Chinese imports, which they blame for the decimation of local industries.

"Shoes, woodwork, metal, embroidery, aluminum, it's all from China," said Musbah al-Hammouri, who has a jewelry shop in the Old City.

He says the quality is "very, very bad" but acknowledges that he sells Chinese goods to cater to customers on a budget.



"If they close China for a hundred years it would be perfect," he said. "You wouldn't see a single poor person around here."

## **Aging Shiite cleric a powerhouse in Iraq. What comes after?**

**By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and MARIAM FAM Associated Press**

NAJAF, Iraq (AP) — When Iraq's top Shiite cleric underwent surgery for a fractured bone last month, it sent shivers around the country and beyond. "May God heal Iraq," read a photo of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani that circulated online.

Frantic supporters shared prayers. Anti-government protesters hung photos of the black-turbaned cleric with a long white beard and bushy eyebrows, declaring, "The hearts of the revolutionaries are with you." Al-Sistani's well-wishers included officials from both Iran and the United States, the bitter rivals for influence in Iraq.

The incident put into focus the question: what will happen after al-Sistani, who turns 90 this year, is gone? The question has gained added importance for an Iraq deeply embroiled in U.S.-Iranian tensions and gripped by months of anti-government protests.

Al-Sistani's death would rob Iraq of a powerful voice whose sway among followers and positions against foreign intervention are believed to have curbed further Iranian influence. He sought to restrain Iranian-backed Shiite militias accused of abuses and moderate the government, repeatedly stating that the Iraqi people are the source of authority.

Iran, analysts say, will likely try to exploit the vacuum to expand its influence among Iraq's Shiites.

The Iranians "don't want another al-Sistani ... They don't want somebody who is strong, who overshadows their own supreme leader," said Abbas Kadhim, director of the Iraq Initiative at the Atlantic Council. While none of al-Sistani's potential successors are "in Iran's pockets," Tehran can benefit from a weak figure.

"If this person is silent and doesn't intervene, people will look elsewhere for guidance," Kadhim said.

Iran's post-al-Sistani ambitions may be complicated by Iraq's wave of protests since October, which showed a vein of resentment among Shiites to Tehran's power. Many Iraqis have also been angered at how U.S. and Iranian hostilities have played out on their soil, including last month's U.S. drone strike that killed top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad.

One cleric in the Shiite holy city of Najaf said he felt "scared for Iraq" when he learned of al-Sistani's surgery. When he dies, Iran could use its "revolutionary slogans" to try to attract followers to its supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, he said.

But he argued that al-Sistani's support for peaceful protesters strengthened Najaf's hand among the public against Iran's forays. "Things weren't that complicated for Iran" before, he said.

Al-Sistani has been a counterweight to Iran, not only in politics. He represents a school of thought in Shiism opposed to direct rule by clerics, the system in place in Iran, where Khamenei has the final word in all matters.

Al-Sistani and Khamenei both hold the rank of "marja taqlid" — or "object of emulation," a figure that pious Shiites revere as a spiritual guide. But the majority of Iraq's Shiites follow al-Sistani, as do many in Iran and around the world.

Fending off Iran is a concern for many in the Najaf Hawza, the esteemed institution of Shiite religious learning from which al-Sistani's successor will emerge.

"Iran ... wants a political stance (in Iraq) that supports it," said a senior cleric there. "It's the Hawza that creates balance. Politicians have lost that balance. If the Hawza loses it too, then Iran will have won both on the religious front and on the political front."

Another senior cleric said "it would be stupid not to worry" about Iran. "But it's all about resistance. Either an outside body can penetrate, or you can stop it." All the clerics spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity surrounding succession and because Hawza senior clergy rarely talk to the media.

Al-Sistani doesn't make public appearances and doesn't deliver sermons — his messages are put out by

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 26 of 33

intermediaries.

He has been recovering from his surgery and this month has resumed receiving visitors at his modest home near Najaf's gold-domed Imam Ali Shrine.

An AP reporter had a rare visit with him in July. With a scorching Najaf sun beating down, scores lined up outside the narrow alley leading to his home. In a sitting room, al-Sistani spoke with the reporter softly and deliberately in accented Arabic, a relic of his Iranian origin. A dark robe draped around his slender, slightly hunched figure, he made eye contact and gesticulated with one hand, seemingly in good health.

Despite the modest trappings, al-Sistani is a larger-than-life figure to whom millions of Shiites look for guidance on even the smallest questions of life.

Under his leadership, the Hawza's ranks swelled after dwindling under the repressive rule of Saddam Hussein. Would-be Shiite clerics from around the world flock to the Hawza, learning from the faith's most respected scholars, whose influence in turn resonates around the Shiite community. Religious classes are dispersed among mosques or buildings in the run-down alleys of Najaf's Old City.

The Hawza prides itself on its independence, governed by centuries-old traditions and unwritten rules. Status is earned by years of building up a reputation for religious knowledge and respect among students and peers.

The system for al-Sistani's succession is complex and informal: no one is "appointed" and there won't be an immediate declaration of a successor. It can take months or even years until one cleric garners enough followers and influence to gain consensus as the new leading "object of emulation."

A group of the Hawza's eminent clerics known as "Ahl al-Khibra" or "the people of expertise," guide the process, steering the faithful toward a figure based on piety and superiority of knowledge.

The most likely contenders, if they outlive al-Sistani, are two grand ayatollahs — Afghan-born Mohammed Ishaq al-Fayadh, who is 89 or 90, and Najaf-born Mohammed Saeed al-Hakim, who is in his 80s. Given their advanced age, observers have floated possible candidates from the younger generation.

Al-Sistani's influential son, Mohamed Reda, could play a role in shaping the succession if he threw his weight behind a candidate who he thinks will follow in his father's footsteps, said Baghdad-based analyst Sajad Jiyad. "It's important for him that al-Sistani's school is cemented."

Still, some question if a figure as broadly accepted as al-Sistani will emerge or how long that can take. The senior clerics who spoke to the AP — and who belong to the Ahl al-Khibra — were confident the Hawza's cloistered ways and deeply entrenched traditions were difficult for Iran to penetrate and that no successor can veer far from al-Sistani's path.

"Our Sunni surroundings won't allow for Iraq to become a Shiite religious state," said one of them. "The international community won't allow for another Iranian copy in Iraq, nor does our social reality," he added, referring to Iraq's diverse religious and ethnic groups.

Iran has tried. It was believed to have been trying to build a following in Najaf for an Iranian cleric close to its supreme leader as a potential successor of al-Sistani. But the cleric, Grand Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, died in 2018.

Even as he shunned a direct rule by clerics, al-Sistani weighed in actively throughout Iraq's turbulent times, helping shape the rise in power of the country's Shiite majority.

His positions forced Iraq's post-Saddam American administrators to significantly revise their transition plans. In 2004, it took his return from London, where he was treated for a heart condition, to end fighting in Najaf between a Shiite militia and U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Still, his influence had limits. He spoke out against reprisals against Sunnis during times of sectarian bloodshed in the mid-2000s but that didn't stop the vicious killings. In 2014, thousands heeded his calls for Iraqis to take up arms against the onslaught of the Sunni Islamic State group. That helped defeat the militants; but it also filled the ranks of Iranian-backed Shiite militias accused of abuses against Sunnis, which have become a significant political force.

Anger at Iran's influence has helped fuel the current protest movement, the largest seen in Iraq. Protesters complain of corruption by politicians and many reject both Iranian and American interference.

Al-Sistani has voiced support for the demands of peaceful protesters and denounced the crackdown

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 27 of 33

against them. He has also spoken out against all foreign intervention and called for an Iraq "that is ruled by its children with no role for outsiders in its decisions." Clerics in Najaf said the word "outsiders" was seen as a harsh message to Iran.

Many protesters view him as a protector and sympathizer. But their attitude is complicated, given many of them dream of Iraq moving beyond sectarian allegiances.

At a march in Baghdad's Tahrir Square, the epicenter of protests, 24-year-old Yassir Kadhim carried a banner with the cleric's image.

"As long as he supports the protests, we will continue. We will continue to death ... because the blood of martyrs has been spilled," he said. But while he follows al-Sistani, he said he would carry on protesting regardless.

"I went out for the sake of this homeland, not for anyone's sake."

---

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

## **Pete Buttigieg's next test: Winning over minority voters**

**By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press**

So far, Pete Buttigieg has made it look easy.

The once little-known former mayor of a midsize Midwestern city vaulted over a former vice president and several U.S. senators in the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire presidential primary. The 38-year-old's fresh face, intellect and turn-the-page message won votes across many demographic groups in the kickoff states.

Now the promise of his candidacy is colliding with the reality of the central question about his viability: Can he win among minority voters who form the critical foundation of the party's base?

That will be tested Saturday in Nevada, with a diverse blend of Latinos and African Americans, but especially in South Carolina, where two-thirds of the primary electorate could be black voters, the base of the Democratic Party that Buttigieg has struggled to attract.

Buttigieg's strategy is to earn a fresh look from black and brown voters by flashing his support in the first two contests, drawing on the validation of minority leaders who have endorsed him and leveraging the personal networks of his supporters.

With the South Carolina primary rapidly approaching Feb. 29, he faces a steep climb.

"I've not seen any real support coming from black local officials. Pete has to make the case himself," said state Sen. Gerald Malloy, a longtime supporter of former Vice President Joe Biden's who has not endorsed a 2020 candidate. "He's obviously a tireless warrior and making the calls. The question is: Will people answer?"

The former South Bend, Indiana, mayor, who has registered negligible support among black voters nationally, has been to South Carolina 10 times and has been airing ads on black radio stations in South Carolina since last fall, as well as ads in black newspapers.

He has been airing TV ads in the state since December, and this month began a spot reflecting his call for parting with the politics of the past.

In it, Walter A. Clyburn Reed, the grandson of Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina, the highest-ranking African American in the House, and Abe Jenkins, grandson of civil rights activist Esau Jenkins, pay tribute to their forebears but call Buttigieg "a fresh start."

It and other ads blanketing YouTube and Facebook reinforce Buttigieg's heavy outreach to younger black voters, especially on college campuses, such as the historically black institutions South Carolina State University and Claflin University in Orangeburg.

Reed said college students are intrigued by Buttigieg's Douglass Plan, aimed at ending systemic racism, but especially are drawn to his call for a culture of belonging.

"That's something that they haven't heard from a candidate," Reed said. "So, really, when he started to

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 28 of 33

hone in on that message, college voters were very attracted to it.”

But for older black voters, both in South Carolina and Nevada, Buttigieg faces another kind of test: whether they will vote for a gay candidate.

Joan Houston, a 63-year-old African American minister and social worker in Las Vegas, said she can't support Buttigieg because of his sexual orientation.

“I'm against homosexuality. I love everybody, but I'm against that lifestyle,” Houston said as she waited to cast her vote for Biden at an early caucus site.

As part of his effort to persuade voters like Houston, Buttigieg has turned from larger-turnout events to more intimate listening sessions that give the candidate a better sense of South Carolina black voters and them a better sense of him, aides said.

Buttigieg has since hosted small-group meetings and has dispatched black elected officials, such as South Bend Councilwoman Sharon McBride and Waterloo, Iowa, Mayor Quentin Hart.

Buttigieg faced criticism last month for hesitating before committing to attend a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in Columbia, South Carolina, with other 2020 candidates. He continues to face questions about the departure of South Bend's first black police chief shortly after Buttigieg took office and about his department's handling of the deadly shooting of an armed black man by a white officer in June.

And he recently struggled when pressed during the ABC debate in New Hampshire about the disproportionate arrests of black people for marijuana possession.

There are at least modest signs of progress, including in California, one of 14 states in the March 3 Super Tuesday primaries. Nina Smallwood, who attended a Buttigieg event in Sacramento, California, on Friday, said she thought he could win over voters of color.

“In this next debate, he's going to have to really make a plea,” the 41-year-old Smallwood said. “Black people want to feel like our voices are heard, as well as everybody's. I definitely think he has an opportunity.”

In Iowa and New Hampshire, Buttigieg's coalition looked more like the electorate overall by age and education than the other top candidates', though voters in those states reflected little racial diversity, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of the electorate.

In New Hampshire, about 1 in 10 voters were nonwhite. Buttigieg earned support from 14% of such voters, roughly comparable to support for other top contenders, except Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, backed by roughly 4 in 10 nonwhite voters.

Buttigieg is also targeting pockets of black voters scattered widely across South Carolina, in part by tapping his campaign organizers' personal networks of churches and pastors.

Malloy, though uncommitted, is a pastor in Hicksville, in rural central South Carolina, and welcomed Buttigieg to his church in August. In December, Buttigieg visited tiny Allendale, in southwest South Carolina, which had been visited by one other Democratic presidential candidate — former Sen. John Edwards in 2008 — in the past 50 years.

Although Biden is the favorite in South Carolina, Buttigieg could claim success by chinning himself into double-digit support among black voters, aides say.

He has the opportunity to improve his standing with a respectable showing in Nevada, where he also is touting the validation of supporters, such as fellow millennial Nevada state Rep. Sandra Jauregui, who is Latina.

Buttigieg was the first candidate to begin airing Spanish language ads in New Hampshire and began airing a new one last week in which the candidate, fluent in seven languages, speaks Spanish throughout.

His team conducts caucus training in Spanish, as 40% of his organizing staff speaks Spanish.

After opening his headquarters in Las Vegas, Buttigieg's first Nevada field office opened in September in the heavily Latino neighborhood of East Las Vegas.

While Nevada could provide some energy to the campaign, South Carolina will go a long way to answering whether Buttigieg can survive as a candidate, said Malloy.

“He's very capable, and he has the money. But the network and the money without the people with him isn't good enough,” Malloy said. “There's time, but I'm not sure how much.”

Associated Press writers Hannah Fingerhut in Washington, Jonathan J. Cooper in Las Vegas and Adam Beam in Sacramento, California, contributed to this report.

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

## Karen Pence adds campaigning for Trump to busy to-do list

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Karen Pence has no shortage of projects.

The wife of Vice President Mike Pence promotes the healing power of art therapy and help for military spouses. She's into honeybees and supports sister cities. She's a watercolorist who designs the family's annual Christmas card and teaches art at a religious elementary school.

Now, she's beginning to campaign on her own to help win a second term for President Donald Trump and her husband. And with first lady Melania Trump largely avoiding the political scene, the campaign sees Mrs. Pence as an asset in one of the areas where they most need help — with suburban woman.

"I just feel like I want to do my part," Mrs. Pence told The Associated Press in an interview shortly before she took a solo trip home to Indianapolis to add the Trump-Pence ticket to the ballot for the state's Republican presidential primary in May. Mike Pence is a former Indiana governor.

"This is so exciting for me," she told supporters at the Indiana Statehouse. "Under the leadership of President Trump and Vice President Pence — I have to put his name in there, too — we are getting things done."

Her pitch includes highlighting economic gains under Trump, including historically low unemployment, along with tax cuts, the creation of "opportunity zones" to lure investment to low-income neighborhoods across the U.S., deregulation and trade policy.

Mrs. Pence told AP she sees her role as "telling the story. Promises made, promises kept."

Over the past several months, she's told that story at a "Latinos for Trump" event in Las Vegas and a "Women for Trump" gathering in St. Paul, Minnesota. Trump narrowly lost Nevada and Minnesota in 2016.

The day after the Indiana stop, she flew to New Hampshire to help rev up Trump supporters before the president arrived a few days later for a campaign rally on the eve of the state's first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

"Whatever you're doing, we need you to do more, and whatever you're giving, we need you to give more," she told the crowd at a Nashua hotel. "We need four more years of President Donald Trump."

Karen Pence is no stranger to the campaign trail. Mike Pence represented Indiana in the U.S. House for six terms before he was elected governor and later joined Trump's ticket.

But the 63-year-old mother of three did little campaigning for Trump after he brought Mike Pence onto the ticket. An evangelical Christian, she was said to have been turned off by Trump's past personal behavior, including hearing him talk on a years-old audiotape that surfaced before the November 2016 election about grabbing women by their private parts.

Aides say Mrs. Pence supports Trump, and that claims suggesting otherwise are false.

Mike Pence, meanwhile, is seen as harboring ambitions to succeed Trump as the GOP presidential nominee in 2024, and having his wife, who is also one of his closest advisers, publicly advocate for him could aid in such efforts. It could help boost her profile, too.

"The only time that she gets much attention nationally is in reference to her husband and their relationship," said Tammy Vigil, a Boston University communications professor who studies women as political communicators. "She could definitely improve her image by being active and going on her own."

Mrs. Pence drew some criticism last year after she resumed teaching art part-time at a Christian school that bars lesbian and gay students and teachers. She had taught at the Northern Virginia school when Mike Pence was a member of Congress. Her husband pushed back against the critics by saying that "at-

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 30 of 33

tacking Christian education" was offensive.

The Trump campaign calls Mrs. Pence a "tremendous asset."

"She knows how to appeal to key conservative and suburban voters, relates closely to the Midwestern voting bloc that Republicans need to win the race, and is eager to explain why the president and vice president deserve reelection," said campaign spokesman Jon Thompson.

Mrs. Pence is also deeply involved in another campaign, one to help educate military spouses about resources to help them cope with lengthy deployments, frequent moves or other issues specific to their experiences.

She and Leah Esper, the wife of Defense Secretary Mark Esper, have begun monthly visits to military bases to meet with spouses. Their first stop was North Carolina's Camp Lejeune in January.

"I think for them to see both of us, it was really special," Karen Pence told AP in her second-floor office in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House grounds.

She has personal experience with military spouse issues. Her son, Michael, is a Marine Corps pilot. His wife, Sarah, accompanied Mike and Karen Pence on a recent trip to Israel and Rome.

Karen Pence is carrying out her myriad responsibilities with a slightly updated image.

Below-the-shoulder locks have replaced the tight bob and bangs she sported at the dawn of the administration. She's noticeably thinner, too, with credit going to an exercise regimen that includes using weights and pulleys, along with apps to aid calorie counting.

She hasn't cut anything out of her diet. "I just have cut back," she said.

So exactly how many pounds did Karen Pence drop from her 5-foot-2 frame? She said only that it took her six months to a year to shed it.

"I would say that I've kept 10 off," she added. "Let's put it that way."

---

Associated Press writer Tom Davies in Indianapolis contributed to this report.

---

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

## Denny Hamlin wins 3rd Daytona 500; Ryan Newman hospitalized

By JENNA FRYER AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Ryan Newman flipped across the finish line, his Ford planted upside down and on fire, a grim reminder of a sport steeped in danger that has stretched nearly two decades without a fatality.

At the finish line, Denny Hamlin made history with a second straight Daytona 500 victory in an overtime photo finish over Ryan Blaney, a celebration that quickly became muted as drivers awaited an update on Newman's condition.

"I think we take for granted sometimes how safe the cars are," Hamlin said. "But number one, we are praying for Ryan."

Roughly two hours after the crash, NASCAR read a statement from Roush Fenway Racing that said Newman is in "serious condition, but doctors have indicated his injuries are not life threatening."

During the long wait for an update, President Donald Trump took to Twitter to express his concern. Trump a day earlier attended the race as the grand marshal, gave the command for drivers to start their engines and made a ceremonial pace lap around Daytona International Speedway before rain washed out the race.

"Praying for Ryan Newman, a great and brave @NASCAR driver! #PrayingForRyan," Trump tweeted. Newman was one of several NASCAR drivers who attended a 2016 rally for Trump in Georgia when he was a presidential candidate.

Mark Rushbrook, global director of Ford Performance Motorsports, acknowledged the excruciating delay for information on Newman.

"To hear some positive news tonight is a relief," Rushbrook said. "He is so respected for being a great competitor by everyone in the sport."

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 31 of 33

NASCAR scrapped the traditional victory lane party for Hamlin's third Daytona 500 victory, rocked by Newman's accident 19 years after Dale Earnhardt was killed on the last lap of the 2001 Daytona 500. Earnhardt was the last driver killed in a NASCAR Cup Series race.

Newman had surged into the lead on the final lap when Blaney's bumper caught the back of his Ford and sent Newman hard right into the wall. His car flipped, rolled, was hit on the driver's side by another car, and finally skidded across the finish line in flames.

It took several minutes for his car to be rolled back onto its wheels. Medical personnel used solid black barriers to block the view as the 2008 Daytona 500 winner was placed in a waiting ambulance and taken to a hospital. The damage to his Mustang was extensive — it appeared the entire roll cage designed to protect his head had caved — and officials would not allow his team near the accident site.

Drivers were stricken with concern, including a rattled Corey LaJoie, the driver who hit Newman's car as it was flipping.

"Dang I hope Newman is ok," he posted on Twitter. "That is worst case scenerio and I had nowhere to go but (into) smoke."

Hamlin is the first driver since Sterling Marlin in 1995 to win consecutive Daytona 500's, but his celebration in victory lane was subdued.

Hamlin said he was unaware of Newman's situation when he initially began his celebration. It wasn't until Fox Sports told him it would not interview him on the frontstretch after his burnouts that Hamlin learned the accident was bad.

"It's a weird balance of excitement and happiness for yourself, but someone's health and their family is bigger than any win in any sport," he said. "We are just hoping for the best."

Team owner Joe Gibbs apologized after the race for the winning team celebration.

"We didn't know until victory lane," Gibbs said. "I know that for a lot of us, participating in sports and being in things where there are some risks, in a way, that's what they get excited about. Racing, we know what can happen, we just dream it doesn't happen. We are all just praying now for the outcome on this."

Runner-up Blaney said the way the final lap shook out, with Newman surging ahead of Hamlin, that Blaney got a push from Hamlin that locked him in behind Newman in a move of brand alliance for Ford.

"We pushed Newman there to the lead and then we got a push from the 11 ... I was committed to just pushing him to the win and having a Ford win it and got the bumpers hooked up wrong," he said.

Hamlin had eight Ford drivers lined up behind him as the leader on the second overtime shootout without a single fellow Toyota driver in the vicinity to help him. It allowed Newman to get past him for the lead, but the bumping in the pack led to Newman's hard turn into the wall, followed by multiple rolls and a long skid across the finish line.

Hamlin's win last year was a 1-2-3 sweep for Joe Gibbs Racing and kicked off a yearlong company celebration in which Gibbs drivers won a record 19 races and the Cup championship. Now his third Daytona 500 win puts him alongside six Hall of Fame drivers as winners of three or more Daytona 500s. He tied Dale Jarrett — who gave JGR its first Daytona 500 win in 1993 — Jeff Gordon and Bobby Allison. Hamlin trails Cale Yarborough's four wins and the record seven by Richard Petty.

This victory came after just the second rain postponement in 62 years, a visit from Trump, a pair of red flag stoppages and two overtimes. The 0.014 margin of victory was the second closest in race history, and Hamlin's win over Martin Truex Jr. in 2016 was the closest finish in race history.

That margin of victory was 0.01 seconds. The win in "The Great American Race" is the third for Toyota, all won by Hamlin. Gibbs has four Daytona 500 victories as an owner.

"I just feel like I'm a student to the game. I never stop learning and trying to figure out where I need to put myself at the right time," Hamlin said. "It doesn't always work. We've defied odds here in the last eight years or so in the Daytona 500, but just trust my instincts, and so far they've been good for me."

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 32 of 33

## Taylor Swift's father safe after fight with burglar

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Taylor Swift's father recently fought a burglar who broke into his \$4 million Florida penthouse, a newspaper is reporting.

The Tampa Bay Times said that Scott Swift returned to his home in the Vinoy Place Towers in St. Petersburg on Jan. 17 just moments after 30-year-old Terrence Hoover used an emergency escape stairwell to climb 13 floors to enter it.

The men fought before Hoover ran away, the paper reports, citing police records. Hoover has a lengthy arrest record that includes domestic violence by strangulation, aggravated battery, burglary, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and kidnapping and false imprisonment, the paper said.

Swift picked Hoover out of a photo lineup and police say Hoover called them to report the altercation. Hoover could not be found, however, until last week, when he was arrested on burglary charges. He was being held Monday on \$50,000 bond.

Taylor Swift was not with her father and it is unclear whether the intruder targeted the home. The 30-year-old singer lives elsewhere.

Hoover's mother told the newspaper that her son got lost while searching for his estranged wife and should only be charged with trespassing.

The penthouse encompasses the entire top floor of one Vinoy tower and includes 5,359 square feet, three bedrooms and three full baths.

## Vandals cover Plymouth Rock in red graffiti

PLYMOUTH, Mass. (AP) — The iconic Plymouth Rock and other sites were covered in red graffiti Monday during a vandalism spree discovered at the site marking the landing of the Pilgrims in Massachusetts 400 years ago.

Officials in Plymouth discovered the vandalism early in the morning. Workers had removed the red spray paint, which included the letters MOF and the numbers 508, from the rock before noon.

Authorities say no arrests have been made and the site was open to tourists.

The rock has come to symbolize the spot where William Bradford and the Mayflower Pilgrims disembarked before founding Plymouth Colony in December 1620.

Police said the vandals also targeted a seashell-shaped sign celebrating the upcoming 400th anniversary of the 1620 Mayflower landing, the Pilgrim Maiden statue and the National Monument To The Forefathers.

It was not immediately clear if this graffiti incident had any connection to the anniversary celebration, but Plymouth Rock has been the site of political demonstrations before.

United American Indians of New England holds the solemn remembrance on every Thanksgiving Day since 1970 there to recall what organizers describe as "the genocide of millions of native people, the theft of native lands and the relentless assault on native culture."

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 18, the 49th day of 2020. There are 317 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 18, 1970, the "Chicago Seven" defendants were found not guilty of conspiring to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic national convention; five were convicted of violating the Anti-Riot Act of 1968 (those convictions were later reversed).

On this date:

In 1546, Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation in Germany, died in Eisleben.

In 1564, artist Michelangelo died in Rome.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis was sworn in as provisional president of the Confederate States of America in



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 231 ~ 33 of 33

Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1885, Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" was published in the U.S. for the first time (after being published in Britain and Canada).

In 1930, photographic evidence of Pluto (now designated a "dwarf planet") was discovered by Clyde W. Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona.

In 1943, Madame Chiang Kai-shek (chang ky-shehk), wife of the Chinese leader, addressed members of the Senate and then the House, becoming the first Chinese national to address both houses of the U.S. Congress.

In 1983, 13 people were shot to death at a gambling club in Seattle's Chinatown in what became known as the Wah Mee Massacre. (Two men were convicted of the killings and are serving life sentences; a third was found guilty of robbery and assault.)

In 1988, Anthony M. Kennedy was sworn in as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1994, at the Winter Olympic Games in Norway, U.S. speedskater Dan Jansen finally won a gold medal, breaking the world record in the 1,000 meters.

In 1997, astronauts on the space shuttle Discovery completed their tune-up of the Hubble Space Telescope after 33 hours of spacewalking; the Hubble was then released using the shuttle's crane.

In 2001, veteran FBI agent Robert Philip Hanssen was arrested, accused of spying for Russia. (Hanssen later pleaded guilty to espionage and attempted espionage and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.) Auto racing star Dale Earnhardt Sr. died in a crash at the Daytona 500; he was 49.

In 2003, an arson attack involving two South Korean subway trains in the city of Daegu claimed 198 lives. (The arsonist was sentenced to life in prison, where he died in 2004.)

Ten years ago: In Austin, Texas, software engineer A. Joseph Stack III crashed his single-engine plane into a building containing IRS offices, killing one person besides himself. President Barack Obama personally welcomed the Dalai Lama to the White House, but kept the get-together off camera and low key in an attempt to avoid inflaming tensions with China.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, hosting a White House summit on countering violent extremism, said Muslims in the U.S. and around the world had a responsibility to fight a misconception that terrorist groups like the Islamic State were speaking for them.

One year ago: Scientist Wallace Smith Broecker, who raised early alarms about climate change and popularized the term "global warming," died at a New York hospital at the age of 87. President Donald Trump urged Venezuela's military to support opposition leader Juan Guaido (gwy-DOH'), and warned that soldiers would find "no safe harbor" if they continued to back President Nicolas Maduro's government. (Despite U.S. pressure including new sanctions on members of Maduro's inner circle, efforts to unseat Maduro have floundered.) New York City officials issued legal guidance saying that the city's existing human rights law protected against hairdo discrimination, allowing New Yorkers to maintain hairstyles "closely associated with their racial, ethnic or cultural identities."

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. John Warner, R-Va., is 93. Singer Yoko Ono is 87. Singer-songwriter Bobby Hart is 81. Singer Irma Thomas is 79. Singer Herman Santiago (Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers) is 79. Actress Jess Walton is 74. Singer Dennis DeYoung is 73. Actress Sinead Cusack is 72. Actress Cybill Shepherd is 70. Singer Randy Crawford is 68. Rock musician Robbie Bachman is 67. Actor John Travolta is 66. Actor John Pankow is 65. Game show host Vanna White is 63. Actress Jayne Atkinson is 61. Actress Greta Scacchi (SKAH'-kee) is 60. Actor Matt Dillon is 56. Rock musician Tommy Scott (Space) is 56. Rapper Dr. Dre is 55. Actress Molly Ringwald is 52. Actress Sarah Brown is 45. Country musician Trevor Rosen (Old Dominion) is 45. Actor Ike Barinholtz is 43. Actor Kristoffer Polaha is 43. Singer-musician Sean Watkins (Nickel Creek) is 43. Actor Tyrone Burton is 41. Rock-singer musician Regina Spektor is 40. Opera singer Isabel Leonard is 38. Roots rock musician Zac Cockrell (Alabama Shakes) is 32. Actor Shane Lyons is 32. Actress Sara Sutherland is 32. Actress Maiara Walsh is 32.

Thought for Today: "Opinion is that exercise of the human will which helps us to make a decision without information." — John Erskine, American author and educator (1879-1951).

Copyright 2020, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.