

Groton Daily Independent

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“PROMISE ONLY
WHAT YOU CAN
DELIVER.
THEN DELIVER
MORE THAN
YOU PROMISE.”

-AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

Upcoming Events

Monday, February 24, 2020

Life Touch pictures at elementary and middle/high school

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Double header basketball vs. Deuel at Clear Lake. Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 4 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6:30 p.m. and Boys Varsity at 8 p.m.

Friday, February 28, 2020

National Qualifier at Brookings High School.

State Wrestling Tournament at Sioux Falls.

Boys' Basketball make-up game at Sisseton. C game at 5 p.m. followed by JV game then the varsity game.

Saturday, February 29, 2020

National Qualifier at Brookings High School.

State Wrestling Tournament at Sioux Falls.

Robotics at Mitchell Technical Institute

Show Choir competition at Vermillion

Sunday, March 1, 2020

2:00pm- 6:00pm: Open Gym at GHS Arena

2:00-4:00 PM Grades JK-8 (Students must be accompanied by an adult) 4:00-6:00 PM Grades 6-12

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Glimpses—by Brock Greenfield

With six weeks of the legislative session behind us, we are fast approaching crossover day. For those who aren't aware, all bills must be passed by or killed by their house of origin by a certain date. As you read this, that they will be upon us. It is Thursday of this week. Expect a flurry of activity as both chambers will be hard at work finishing up business on the bills that begin on the respective sides. As is often the case, the Senate stands poised to finish its work early in the day on crossover day. The House, on the other hand, will have a longer calendar in front of them throughout most of this week. They have had more bills introduced, and they've had a bit of a backlog and some of their committees.

Last week, SB 21, which seeks to position electronic signs in two spots on the interstate where they can control variable speed limit displays, was dealt with on the Senate side. The genesis of this bill was the availability of federal funds for such a purpose. In the past, a similar effort has been defeated. However, this time around SB 21 prevailed by a vote of 20-14. Proponents argue that it will enhance safety on those two stretches of interstate highway as variable speed limits can be posted from a central office in Pierre as weather conditions change. They also made the claim that the state will save \$22 million over 15 years, due to fewer accidents involving state vehicles and/or emergency responders' time. Opponents argue that this will only be the beginning of a larger program that, over time, will vie for state general funds that could otherwise be used for funding education programs or for caring for those who are unable to care for themselves. Still others note that we are already required by law to not overdrive road conditions. They feel that travelers on the road know better than somebody sitting in an office what speeds should be observed. I made the point that if not for federal funds being available, legislators would not even be considering this measure. Over time, this will be one more monstrosity of a program begun with federal dollars and subsequently sustained and expanded at state expense.

SB 150, as amended, seeks to revise nonresident waterfall licenses so that the timeframe can either be two 5-day periods or one 10-consecutive-day period. Similar attempts have been tried in the past on numerous occasions. I have had a number of people with local ties who have said it would be nice if we allowed a little additional flexibility for them to return home from neighboring states and hunt with friends and family. They noted that the duck and goose migration doesn't always follow the same pattern, and they would like to be able to hunt both...maybe early and again late during the fall migration. Still others, who just enjoy being in the great outdoors here in South Dakota, have said they would really like an opportunity to be able to split their license to allow for their additional flexibility. They say that every time they come here, they drop hundreds of dollars in our local businesses. Moreover, they note that South Dakota has the most rigid nonresident waterfowl licensing system in the country. Everywhere else, they can obtain a license over-the-counter. And in most cases, their license is good for the entirety of a season. Here, though, they cannot just obtain a license add a local business or even online. Instead, in the middle of the summer, they must apply and be entered into a lottery system. Those whose names are drawn, then, have to know which dates they will plan on utilizing their license. Sometimes plans change. Sometimes emergencies arise. By establishing a new system, they may lose out on one opportunity to come here and hunt, but they would still be able utilize their license for another timeframe. Also notable is that this would mirror the nonresident small game license that people need in order to hunt pheasants. The bill passed the Senate 21-14.

SB 136 passed the Senate by a vote of 34-0. This bill will allow a therapeutic service dog to be present in a courtroom when a minor is testifying. We heard anecdotal evidence offered by states attorneys and children's and victims' advocates that from time to time children who have suffered enormous trauma are required to testify before the courts. Having a therapeutic service dog available to them will help to ease the stresses they are under while testifying.

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Finally, SB 157 is one of the most high-profile yet most misunderstood bills of the session. The history of the issue for me dates back to one of my very first sessions back in the early 2000's. At that time we passed legislation that encouraged counties to establish comprehensive zoning plans. Decisions made subsequent by the counties were supposed to determine whether applications for conditional use permit's comply with the local zoning ordinances. If so, applications were to be approved in a ministerial act by the county commission. That legislation sought to take subjectivity out of the decision-making process. Unfortunately, overtime, some of the comprehensive zoning plans were rescinded, while others ignored in-part or in whole. SB 157 seeks to revise current law by injecting ultimate local control into the process. It stipulates, once again, that counties should establish their own zoning ordinances and then abide by them. It delineates what is a special permit versus a conditional use permit. It also establishes legal protocols for appeals and what the potential penalties are for acting contrary to the locally established zoning laws. This will provide more stability or objectivity in the permitting process and will remove subjectivity from the protocols. Nothing in the bill prevents a county from establishing a blanket policy that they simply will not consider certain types of businesses for the permitting process. However, if such businesses are eligible to make application, it makes it clear that if their applications comport with county zoning, permits shall be granted. Appeals must be filed in a timely fashion by aggrieved parties. The bill remains a work-in-progress. It was amended both in Senate committee and on the floor to address concerns by opponents. It prevailed 24-11 and heads to the House for their consideration.

As always, I appreciate the many ways you participate in the process, whether you call or write or attend cracker barrels or come to Pierre...or if you simply read our articles or catch news stories to stay up-to-speed. We may not always agree, but your input is valuable and often leads to better outcomes because of amendments that you inspire. AND, sometimes you present arguments that change my mind entirely. Most of all, I covet your prayers for wisdom, discernment, clarity of mind, and health & well-being. God bless each of you!

Lana's Annals-by Lana Greenfield

Hello once again. More groups found their way to the Capitol this way. Among them were many area high school government classes, Leadership Huron and Aberdeen, farm groups just to name a few. We are very happy when people fill the gallery to listen to floor debates. One of these was HB1133, shared parenting. This bill seeks to "level the playing field" so both mom and dad can be a part of the lives of their children unless, for legal reasons, that cannot occur. (abuse) Let's be honest: no one wins in a divorce, least of all the minor children. The debate's sponsor pointed out that many children who grow up without both parents' influence turn out to be troubled children and adults. Grandparents, who have been alienated from their grandchildren, were also among the proponents. We passed the bill so will go onto the Senate for further consideration.

HB1175, which was introduced in Education committee, defined dyslexia as a learning disability that needs defining and eventual funding. It was pointed out that 1 in 5 students experience dyslexia. Believed to be neurological in nature, people who have this have difficulty with word recognition, spelling, and poor decoding ability. Letters and numbers are turned around. These challenges are so difficult to work with as the dyslexic does not know that anyone else is not seeing things the same way. I would be first to say that I was not trained as a teacher to know what to look for or to study helpful remedies. Awareness is key to being able to help. We passed the bill out of committee and will see if the entire House agrees that it needs to be recognized in our code of law. HB1167 was a committee talker. It simply states that a parent should be informed about any major thing a child and a counselor discuss at school. I had a hard time with this as the counselor may be the only person that the child feels comfortable in talking with. I think that if the information is profound, the counselor would contact the school administration. At that time a decision could be made as to whether the child would be better off if his parents knew. I want to add here that if it is a potential suicide risk, there would be a mandatory report to the administration.

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I think it is important that a child has a trusted person to whom he can go, and if the bond of trust is broken, it makes things only worse. We passed the bill so will await the floor debate.

HB1158 would have disallowed a "no fault" divorce. Some constituents felt divorce should be made harder to get, therefore allowing more people to try to work things out. This fell to defeat in committee, however, so divorce laws remain the same.

HB1152, known as the sentinel bill, passed the House floor this week. It allots federal money (up to 45000 dollars) to be provided to schools that wish to send a staff member for training. This would divide out to 30 schools at 1500 each. If more schools put in a request for funding, the dollars would be pro-rated. Some schools have already paid for a sentinel to be trained; this would just provide funding in case an educational entity would really want a sentinel and not have the money to participate. It is purely voluntary.

Some of our bills clearly exhibit how we disagree with each other. One bill that I discussed last week was HB1174 that changes the kindergarten start date to allow children to be somewhat more mature at school entry level. This week we will hear HB1237 that asks for setting up an advisory council to promote early learning. Keep in mind that some schools have free pre-k, some have the program paid by parents, and some do not have any program. We will listen to the testimony and decide on the need, or lack thereof, of a need for an early learning council.

HB1169 makes it a primary offense to use an electronic device while driving. A primary offense means officers can detain you on suspicion that one is, for example, texting while driving. A secondary offense, which has been in place, means that the officer can detain you after citing you for speeding or running a stoplight, etc. and THEN cite you for texting and driving which resulted in your negligence in stopping for the stop light. I did not vote in favor of this as I think one still has to have probable cause to stop the car in the first place and the texting offense would then remain a secondary offense. Keep in mind that all of the laws we can make are only contingent on people obeying them. If one is of the opinion that texting and driving is safe, that person will continue to do so no matter how many laws are created. That is just a sad fact of human nature, I guess.

We had a controversial HB1156, which prevents schools from doing invasive exams of private body parts and bans insertions or shots without parental permission. I voted no on this bill. There were no examples cited that certain school personnel anywhere in our state are doing this. In fact, I interpreted it to be a direct and unfounded accusation. First, if someone on staff is doing this, charges would be filed, I am certain. Second, if it was alluding to staff nurses doing so, it still does not relate to our district. I think we need to be very careful of the message we are sending as a legislature to our schools and personnel. To attack and then present no evidence is very slanderous. I do not choose get on board for some future score card put out which states I am not for parental rights because I did not vote for this fabrication.

We have had several bills that are yet to be debated. I assume this week will consist of long sessions, late nights, and some heated tempers!! Crossover week always seems to get this way as each chamber debates and votes on remaining bills by Thursday evening so that the House can begin on Monday to listen to the Senate bills that have survived the test thus far and vice versa.

Remember that we are on SDPB2 at 2 p.m. The House debate is first and then is followed by the Senate. Have a good week. I challenge you to count your blessings AND to be a blessing to someone!

Sincerely, Rep. Greenfield

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings are entering a very important offseason. The best way to describe the team is "good, but not great". With negative cap space and aging veterans, the team will have to decide if they are able to make enough moves to improve the team or if it's time to tear the team apart and start from scratch.

As noted above, the team is in a bad spot with the salary cap. The Vikings have perhaps the best cap manager in Rob Bryzinski, but after years of renegotiating contracts (not to mention a quarterback with a fully guaranteed contract), there will be some difficult decisions to be made in the coming months.

We'll have a salary cap article coming up in two weeks, but for now, let's take a look at the team's needs on offense and how they might be filled in free agency, which officially begins on March 18.

For years, the Vikings' biggest need has been offensive line, and this year is no different. Left tackle Riley Reiff has been decent, but with a cap hit of over \$13 million he is a player the Vikings might consider cutting, which would save the team almost \$9 million (after the remaining guaranteed money on his contract is paid). If the Vikings cut Reiff and look to free agency to fill his spot, there are a few players who could come in and play at a similar level. Andrew Whitworth and Jason Peters are the biggest names available at left tackle, but both players are 38 years old and are clearly showing signs of decline. Anthony Castonzo is only 31 years old, so he has plenty left in the tank, but he will be the most coveted offensive tackle in free agency and as such will likely be too expensive for the Vikings. Another option might be to sign a player like Jack Conklin to play right tackle while current Vikings RT Brian O'Niell slides over to left tackle. Conklin is only 25 years old and is a solid run blocker but needs to improve in pass protection.

Left guard is another position that the Vikings will need to address at some point this offseason. Pat Elflein was drafted in 2017 to be the Vikings center, but after two seasons it became clear he wasn't up to the task, so the Vikings drafted Garrett Bradbury to be their new center and sending Elflein to left guard. There should have been some signs of improvement in year three for Elflein, but those signs have been hard to find. If the Vikings elect to upgrade left guard, a couple names to keep an eye on are Brandon Sherff and Joe Thuney. Sherff is 28 years old and has battled injuries over the last three seasons, but when he's healthy he is one of the better guards in the NFL. Thuney is 27 years old, and has gotten better every year in the league. Either player would be a clear upgrade at left guard but would cost the Vikings a pretty penny.

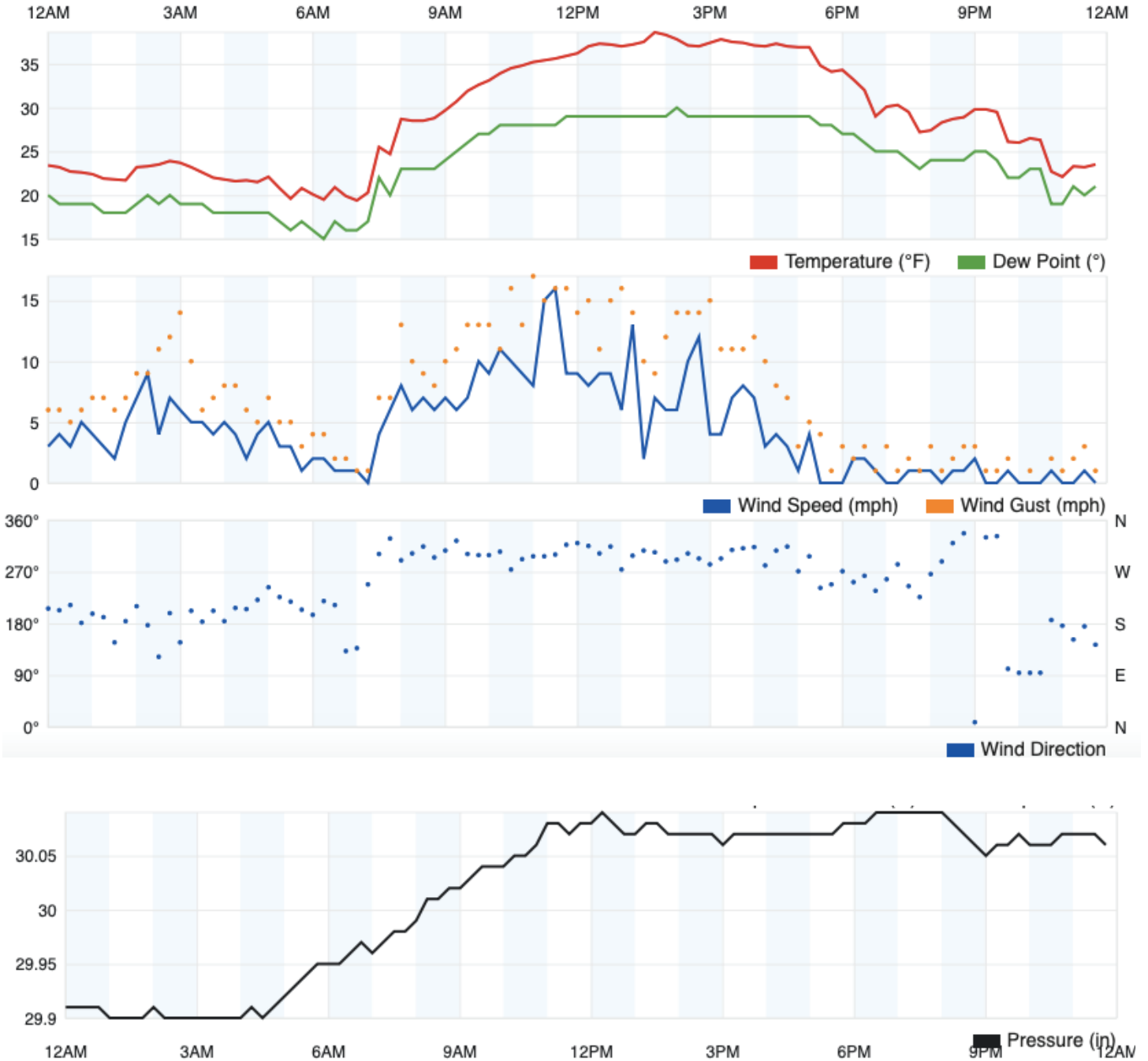
The Vikings will also need to upgrade their wide receiving corps heading into 2020. There are rumors that the Vikings might look to trade Stefon Diggs, and while anything is possible, I put the chances of that happening at .00001%. So the Vikings will have Diggs, Adam Thielen and 2019 rookie Bisi Johnson on the roster but are very thin after that. We can dream all day about a player like Amari Cooper or AJ Green playing in the purple and gold next season, but that won't happen so don't get your hopes up. Instead, the Vikings will be looking at players like Randall Cobb or Devin Funchess. Cobb (29 years old), the former Packer, is the most consistent option and would be a solid wide receiver three or four. Funchess makes this list because the Vikings seem to want a big-bodied WR on the roster. If the team decides to move on from Laquon Treadwell (again), Funchess is a very similar player who might be able to come in and provide what the Vikings are looking for.

Make sure to check out next week's article, where we look at free agency fits for the defense. And as always, if you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
				
Slight Chance Snow	Chance Snow and Patchy Fog	Slight Chance Snow and Patchy Fog	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 33 °F	Low: 22 °F	High: 29 °F	Low: 7 °F	High: 20 °F

Light Snow Monday Afternoon – Tuesday Morning

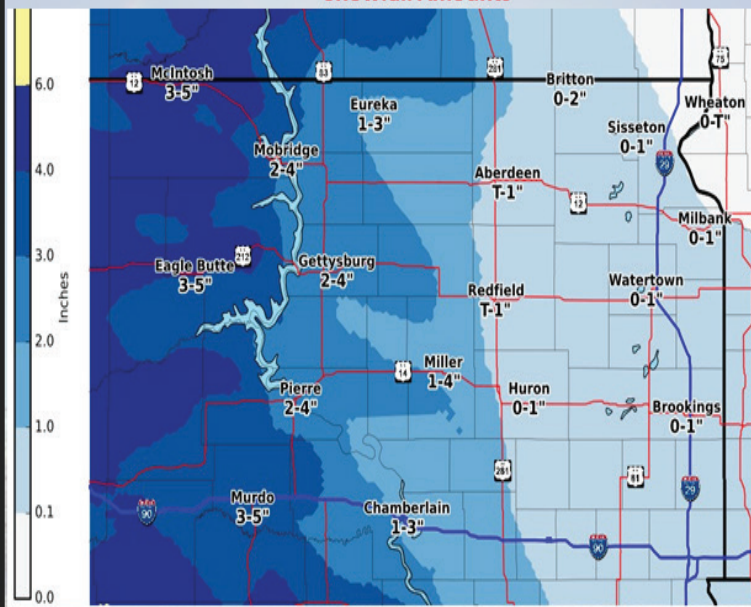
Today-Tonight

- Light Snow moves into SD this afternoon moving from northwest to southeast
- Highs around freezing for northeast SD, nearing 40 for central SD
- Winds also pick up this afternoon

Tuesday

- Snow ends in the morning.
- Breezy winds remain through Tuesday evening, patchy blowing snow is possible
- High temps in the mid to upper 20s

Snowfall Amounts



A storm system moves across the region this afternoon into Tuesday morning. Here is a look at the latest expected snowfall amounts. Dry air will keep eastern SD from seeing much snowfall and the best chances for accumulating snow will be in western and central SD.

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Today in Weather History

February 24, 2001: Heavy snow of 6 to 14 inches fell across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west-central Minnesota. Along with the heavy snow came blizzard conditions across northeastern South Dakota and west-central Minnesota during the morning hours of the 25th as northwest winds increased to 25 to 45 mph. As a result of the heavy snow and blizzard conditions, travel became difficult, if not impossible, resulting in some accidents and stranded motorists. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Waubay, Onida, Murdo, and Artas, 7 inches at Aberdeen, Faulkton, Ipswich, Kennebec, and Clark, 8 inches at Miller, Castlewood, 23 N Highmore, and Pierre. Nine inches of snow fell at Browns Valley, Wheaton, Clinton, Graceville, Dumont, Roy Lake, Mellette, Blunt, and Watertown. Other snowfall amounts included, 10 inches near Summit, 11 inches at Webster, Ortonville, and Artichoke Lake, and 14 inches at Milbank.

1969: The famous "100-Hour Storm" began in Boston, MA. Snow fell much of the time between early on the 25th through noon on the 28th. The 26.3 inches at Logan Airport is the 2nd greatest snowstorm in Boston's history. 77 inches fell at Pinkham Notch Base Station in New Hampshire, bringing their February total to 130 inches. Their snow cover on the 27th was 164 inches. Mt. Washington, NH, received 172.8 inches of snow in the month.

2001: Over a dozen tornadoes spawned in central and eastern Arkansas. The strongest tornado (F3) was in Desha County, with parts of a farm shop found six miles away from where it was blown apart. An 18-month-old was killed in Fulton County by an F2 tornado.

1852 - The Susquehanna River ice bridge at Havre de Grace, MD, commenced to break up after forty days of use. A total of 1738 loaded freight cars were hauled along rails laid on the ice. (David Ludlum)

1936 - Vermont and New Hampshire received brown snow due to dust from storms in the Great Plains Region. A muddy rain fell across parts of northern New York State. (24th-25th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A massive winter storm began to overspread the western U.S. In southern California, Big Bear was blanketed with 17 inches of snow, and Lake Hughes reported four inches of snow in just one hour. Snow pellets whitened coastal areas of Orange County and San Diego County, with three inches at Huntington Beach. The storm also produced thunderstorms with hail and waterspouts. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong winds produced snow squalls in the Great Lakes Region which created "white-out" conditions in eastern Upper Michigan. Squalls produced up to 14 inches of snow in Geauga County of north-eastern Ohio. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A total of thirty-three cities in the eastern U.S. reported new record low temperatures for the date, and an Atlantic coast storm spread heavy snow from Georgia to southern New England. Snowfall totals in New Jersey ranged up to 24 inches in May County, with 19 inches reported at Atlantic City. Totals in North Carolina ranged up to 18 inches in Gates County, and winds along the coast of North Carolina gusted to 70 mph at Duck Pier. Strong winds gusting to 52 mph created blizzard conditions at Chatham MA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Strong northerly winds prevailed from Illinois to the Southern and Central Appalachians. Winds gusted to 68 mph at Sewickley Heights PA. High winds caused considerable blowing and drifting of snow across northern and central Indiana through the day. Wind gusts to 47 mph and 6 to 8 inches of snow created white-out conditions around South Bend IN. Traffic accidents resulted in two deaths and 130 injuries. Sixty-five persons were injured in one accident along Interstate 69 in Huntington County. Wind gusts to 60 mph and 4 to 8 inches of snow created blizzard conditions in eastern and northern Ohio. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004 - Heavy snows blanket wide areas of northern New Mexico, closing schools and highways. The mountains east of Santa Fe receive 20 inches. Sandia Park, east of Albuquerque, measures 11 inches. 8 inches falls at Los Alamos.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 39 °F at 1:43 PM

Low Temp: 19 °F at 6:49 AM

Wind: 18 mph at 11:30 AM

Snow

Record High: 62° in 1976

Record Low: -26° in 1940

Average High: 31°F

Average Low: 11°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.42

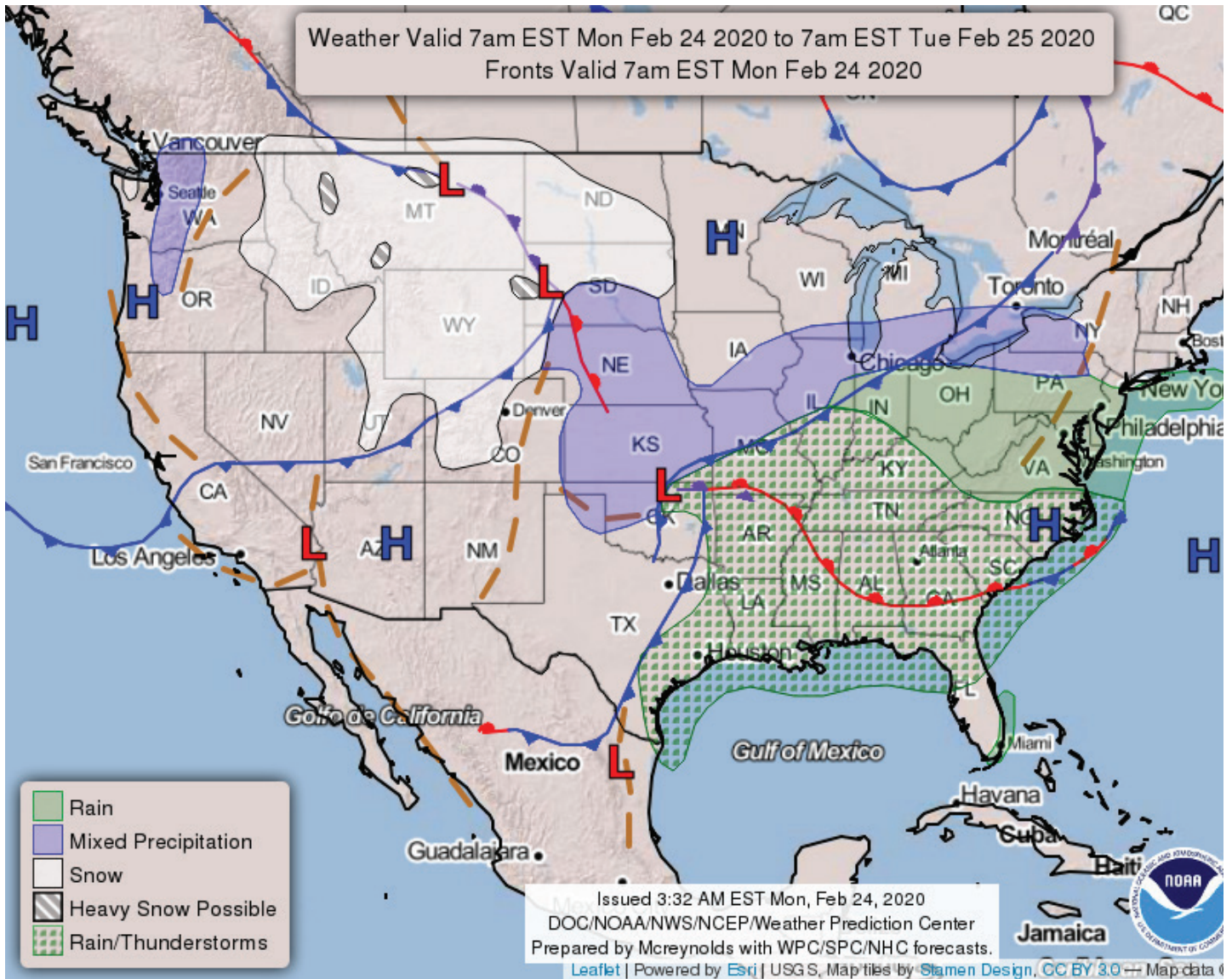
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.89

Precip Year to Date: 0.35

Sunset Tonight: 6:13 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:20 a.m.



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USING OUR TALENTS

Years ago a Jewish immigrant from Russia gave his son a violin for his eighth birthday. After months of lessons and hours of practice, he became a very accomplished violinist.

Years later while performing at a concert, he paused and shared a funny story about an experience the day he was given his violin. The audience laughed heartily and applauded loudly. He was so delighted and encouraged by their response that he decided to end his career as a violinist and become a comedian. The violinist, who became a comedian, was the beloved Jack Benny. As a result of his decision, he brought humor and happiness, healing and hope to countless thousands with the special gift that God gave him.

God has something very unique for each of us to do. And, he wants to do through us what He will not and cannot do through anyone else. Each of us has a special place in God's heart and a different role for us to play in His world. Scripture plainly says "To every man his work."

We often struggle and strain to discover what God has for us to do. But, if we are open to the nudging of His Spirit, take advantage of the opportunities that come our way, and use and develop the gifts He has given us, He will present many opportunities for us to serve Him, bless others, and complete the plan He has for our life.

Prayer: Lord, we ask that You guard us and guide us as we use Your gifts to honor You and serve others. Help us to find and follow the path You have planned for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 32:8 The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.

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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)
 - 05/11/2020 Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 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
 - 06/20/2020 Shriner's Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 06/22/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ladies Invitational
 - 06/26/2020 Groton Businesses Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 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
 - 08/07/2020 Wine on Nine Event at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 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 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
 - 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
 - 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates
-
- Bingo every Wednesday 6:30pm at the American Legion Post #39
 - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Meat, American Legion Post #39 7pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
 - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Pizza, Jungle Lanes 8pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
-
- All dates are subject to change, check for updates here

News from the Associated Press

Bringing visions to life: Woman becomes 'branding doula'

By KATIE NELSON Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Carly Kewley didn't always know what she wanted to do with her life.

After graduating from South Dakota State University with a bachelor's degree in graphic design, the small business owner did everything from taking movie tickets to selling shoes to working as a graphic designer at Complete Media in Sioux Falls.

But it wasn't until after she had her second daughter that Kewley decided to move into graphic design as a full-time freelancer.

"CK Design was born through that," Kewley told the Argus Leader. "Because I really needed a way to focus my creative energy."

CK Design Co. is a one-woman enterprise that helps business owners tell their stories and build their brands through logos, website design, photography and social media.

Kewley describes herself as a "branding doula" for small business owners.

"I help them bring their visions to life," she said.

Branding is an important step of creating and sustaining a business, Kewley said, and the two go hand in hand.

"If your business was a person, your business is the bones, the internal, the structure and how everything works," she said, "and your brand is the personality."

Many businesses, especially solo-run enterprises, struggle to separate their brand identity from their personal identity, which often may not match with their target market.

"To have a solid brand is really going to help the function of your business, and if you have a solid business, that's going to help build your brand," Kewley said.

While she has clients across the country, Kewley has also worked with several Sioux Falls businesses such as The Kitchen — a co-working space for women — and Sioux Merchant Patrol, a private security company.

One of the businesses that has been with Kewley since the very beginning is Game Chest, a downtown Sioux Falls game store. Owner Amanda Wermers had met Kewley while working at Wine and Canvas on 26th Street and knew she was the perfect person to help create Game Chest's brand. In fact, Game Chest's logo was Kewley's creation.

"She's able to see our business through the lens of what we want people to see our business as," Wermers said. "She's able to communicate the things we value as a brand."

While Wermers has worked with larger agencies before, she said the experience was less than ideal.

"It was lacking intimacy, it was lacking communication with the designer," she said.

But working with a freelancer like Kewley allows for a more hands-on approach.

"It's more personalized," Wermers said.

For Kewley, her flexible schedule and ability to pick her own projects are perks of the job. But more than that, she gets to take her passion for art and turn it into a way to help businesses.

"I get to help people build their dreams, which is pretty awesome," she said.

Sisseton man, father strengthen bond in sobriety

By KELDA J.L. PHARRIS Aberdeen American News

SISETON, S.D. (AP) — A wandering impression cuts between two red and white homes on a cul-de-sac in north Sisseton. The pathway of trodden snow stretches out of sight to a scattering of woods beyond. Billy Keeble's finger traces the winter-bare tree line above the single-story rooftops. The trees create a natural border along the neighborhood. There are a few curtains rustled by curious homeowners as Billy

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talks and ablonddog barks an alert from a taut leash. It's Jan. 16 and breaths rise thick in the subzero air.

Billy, 34, points to another cluster of trees to the southwest, across an empty expanse from this neighborhood. This purposeful grouping borders a school and parish. It would be a quick walk on foot but not this day. Billy's former hangout spots from his former life are inaccessible now, tucked away under a thick crust of snow.

He gets in his pickup with his father, Frank Keeble, in the passenger seat and drives the much longer street route to the parking lot closer to the second set of trees. He finds that a building has been torn down. Long ago, he'd often used it as a windbreak when passed out. This trip around the corner is a trip four years back for Billy. He's visiting old ghosts, seeing blurred flashbacks through the eyes of a desperate man without hope, awash in alcohol and grief.

If you ask Billy how many loved ones he's lost to alcohol-related deaths, it will take some time for an answer. When he was 2, his biological mother, Leta Keeble, died in an alcohol-related vehicle crash. He speaks of an aunt and uncle, friends and siblings. His name nearly made that list, too, on a Good Friday nearly four years ago.

Frank is Billy's adoptive father and biological grandfather. Frank could've also been on that list. Both men are sober today. Billy for nearly four years, for Frank nearly 40, the Aberdeen American News reported.

Intergenerational alcoholism is a common theme heard at Dakotah Pride Center in Sisseton, said Richard Bird, 20-year director of the treatment facility that serves members of the Lake Traverse Reservation. Bird is regularly faced with people at their lowest points. It's a challenging position with odds stacked against the center.

"I do what I can do. It's accepting that you do what you can do there," said Bird.

There are successes. Both Billy and Frank have been supported by the facility. Billy said methamphetamine is taking hold in his old circles, but alcohol abuse still has the biggest grip. His statement is backed by dire statistics.

Alcohol-related deaths continue to rise in South Dakota. And the rates are much worse for Native Americans compared to Caucasians. In 2018, the rate of alcohol-related deaths for Native Americans in South Dakota was seven times that of white people. There were 236 alcohol-related deaths in total in South Dakota, up from 216 in 2017. The number had risen steadily from 99 in 2009, according to information from the South Dakota Department of Health.

"I used to have a little spot behind St. Peters," said Billy, pointing at an area empty except for a mound of snow. "We would be drinking, coming to, laying behind St. Peters. All us Rangers would sleep outside or here or there."

Rangers is the affectionate term for a collective of souls lost in the throes of addiction, set on the fringes of what is a small college town on the Lake Traverse Reservation in northeast South Dakota. He previously shared a photo of an old hangout in the woods. It was taken during a mild season. In the blurred image there is an old, cushionless couch propped against shrub trees and a couple weathered tents. Dingy pairs of sneakers and pillows rest on the shaded and trampled earth, as does a scorched metal bowl.

On colder nights he would head to a flophouse, colored a bluish-purple next to another church. Anyone who had alcohol was welcome. Hurricanes — a brand of malt liquor — were \$1.80 or \$2.10 at the K & K convenience store. There was also a liquor store directly up the alley. Billy would sit on the post office steps or wander the main streets, panhandling.

Family ties

For Billy, his first drink came around the age of 12 or 13. For a long time it seemed casual. What sent him into complete dysfunction was his adoptive mother's death in March 2014. Billy found Juanitta Keeble slumped over. Her death was attributed to a heart attack. She had been in poor health, but didn't drink. Two other relatives of Billy's would suffer alcohol-related deaths soon after. Billy was distraught.

Juanitta, married to Frank, had been Billy's only mother since he was 2. She was kind and raised him in the Baptist church after the couple adopted him when his biological mother died.

As Billy's drinking increased, his reasons to continue turned from numbing his pain to staving off the awful feelings of withdrawals. Sometimes he'd be hospitalized or find himself in jail. This went on for

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about three years.

Frank was in the depths of alcoholism once, too. He'd started in his later teens, having joined a band and social group where beer was readily available.

"I liked what it did for me. Seemed like it took care of my tiredness, whole outlook on life is different," Frank said.

He'd gotten married at 19 and worked on a masonry crew with his dad and brothers. The marriage didn't last.

Then Frank enlisted in the Army. He's not sure how he made it through with an honorable discharge, but he did. He went back to his old routine and married again in 1969. As a drunk Frank was absent at best. It wasn't grief that kept him drinking, it was guilt.

"As time went on, on the weekends there was a six-pack, then it became a 12-pack, then it went into a case of beer," he said. "I'd wake up on Monday hungover. I found if I'd take another drink I'd be alright. Over time I started missing Mondays at work, then Tuesdays I'd have a hangover ...

"She said, 'You can't be a father, you can't hold a job, can't even provide for your family.' So I kind of smarted off," he said of his now ex-wife, Loretta.

At the time he knew she was right.

"My dad really didn't know what made me keep drinking," Frank said. "I had that secret from him. So I think that's what (Billy) did, too. Maybe it was his guilt. That's how I felt. I'd start feeling bad that I'd let my folks down. The trust they had for me, the love they had for me, I killed it all. That's what kept me from sobering up."

Frank, like Billy, also had a spiritual moment on the verge of his sobriety. It was July 1980 and he was bumming around Sioux Falls, drinking his days away. The routine was wearing on him. He decided to hitchhike back home, but began to fall into an old routine.

"I was in Sisseton, started a day or two of drinking, ended up in an abandoned house again. I woke up, saw the sun, said, 'It's a beautiful day,'" Frank recalled saying to another man.

The man handed him a drink. Frank took it because he was sick. He couldn't shake the image of the sunlit window as he roused himself.

"I was in the pool hall, walked into the latrine, I was dry-heaving, vomiting. I asked the Lord, 'Come into my life, I need your help.' I walked out a free man."

Frank went to the hospital and was adamant that he be sent to detox. But the medical personnel suggested he go home with pills to take the edge off his withdrawal symptoms. He withdrew, went through programming with Dakotah Pride Center and devoted himself to a life of sobriety and to Juanitta. He credits his faith for his conviction to get sober.

When Billy was bad off, Frank would keep tabs on him. Both refer to Frank as a bit of an enabler, but both also shrug knowing what their present relationship is and how they've leaned on each other to get here.

"He'd see me on the streets, throw me a pack of cigarettes, give me \$5," Billy said.

Occasionally Billy would come home when he was very sick. Frank would give him chores and such, keep him fed and sheltered. But once Billy felt better, he'd be off again. After losing other children to alcohol-related deaths, Frank admits that when he got a phone call, a little part of him expected it'd be Billy found dead from exposure.

"The whole time I was going through my addictions I'd always get a lecture, 'Billy, you've got to get your life right. I ain't going to be here forever,'" Billy said. "One time that really hit home, he said, 'Billy with your mom gone, you know how those elders go. Whenever a spouse goes, the other usually goes quick from loneliness.'"

"That almost makes me cry today," he said.

Frank, from personal experience, knew getting sober would have to be Billy's decision.

The wake-up

"I was walking on the four-lane (highway), hungover, sick. I happened to look over at the Family Life Assembly of God Church," Billy said.

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It's Jan. 16 and Billy stands among the pews of that same church. He and the Rev. Vern Donnell walk through their first meeting. Billy stumbled in just as the church's Good Friday service was to begin. Donnell admits he was caught up in the affairs of the day, but it only took him a split second to realize his priorities — a human who was hurting.

Billy's arm was hurt. He was sobbing, shaking and looked terrible as his body struggled in withdrawals. He pleaded for help. Donnell looked him over, made a call to Indian Health Services, then had Billy sit in a back pew to observe the service. Billy promised that he would behave.

Donnell carried on his pastoral duties, and as the service went on he heard a new voice singing among the parishioners. It was Billy's. He'd moved to a pew near the front of the sanctuary and was singing along to every word with the rest of the congregation.

After the service, a group of men surrounded Billy in prayer. Donnell called Frank at his home in Grenville. "It was blowing and drifting. I got a phone call, it was from a pastor down in Sisseton. He says, 'I got Billy here with me,'" Frank said.

Donnell told Frank that he'd made arrangements for Billy at Dakotah Pride Center and a hospital.

"What I want from you is transportation," Frank recalled the pastor saying.

A week later, Billy was out of detox and found himself on Nicollet Tower, which overlooks Sisseton and the surrounding area for miles on a clear day. He calls it a spiritual awakening. A flood of emotions overcame him.

"It's like a pretty cool place, to go way up there. I got on my knees in prayer. I said, 'Please take these addiction chains away, release me.' I cried. I felt cold chills, like a ton of bricks were lifted off. Finally knew I didn't want to feel that anymore," he said.

Life, sober

During a phone call in December Billy announced, "Just got my last finals done. Sounds like I got a degree now."

He sounded in awe and relieved when he said the words aloud. It's a two-year degree. He's the first from his family to graduate from a college program. It makes Billy sad to know that Juanitta never saw him improve his life, but he knows Frank will tell her about it one day.

"I had a goal set — to walk across the stage when my dad is still alive. When he walks into heaven he could tell her everything I did," Billy said.

In mid-January Billy and Frank meet at Sisseton Wahpeton College south of Sisseton and next to Agency Village. Billy has a lightness in his step and an easy smile. He was able to book a boardroom for Frank and him to sit in and tell their story again. He's looking forward to the ceremonial walk and handshake for his degree in May. He's been busy, and it helps with sobriety. He's worked at the homeless shelter for three years and looks forward to being a chemical dependency counselor eventually, with more schooling and training. He's trying to be a good example to family and friends still chained to their addictions. The pastor at Bethany Baptist Church, the church Billy now regularly attends, stepped down and asked Billy to take over this summer. He's gladly accepted, and Donnell has continued to be a guide and mentor for him in his new calling.

Billy said his focus comes from reminding himself of the old days. No matter how bad he was doing and how few resources he had, he could always find a drink then. These days his goals aren't drinks, but he goes after his new aspirations with the same desire.

In the beginning of his sobriety, Billy very much avoided his old haunts and relationships. That felt a little isolating, but he knew it was crucial to maintaining his sobriety. More often than not, that's what pulls people back into their addictions — falling into old routines, he said. It's how he'd faltered several times before.

Billy credits God, his father and Donnell for being constant support for him. He knew they always had his back but he was unsure how others would react to him. He'd had a perception that he'd be labeled "too good for me" by former cohorts. The opposite has happened. Everyone he comes in contact with seems to be happy for him, proud of him — even those still in turmoil with their own addictions. Maybe

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his example of hope is rubbing off. That's the crux for those who maintain sobriety, according to Bird, with Dakotah Pride Center.

"Those that make it seem to find some kind of hope that they'll get better — not only physically or healthier, but their life will get better," he said.

Frank and Billy both briefly speak with regret of the wasted years behind them, dictated by alcohol. Neither was expected to escape the grasp.

But their spirits are warm and contented even on a cold winter day. They have come to understand that it's their hopes and future that will define them.

Former American News reporter Shannon Marvel contributed to this story.

Friedel, Wilson spark S. Dakota St. past S. Dakota 85-80

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Noah Freidel scored 21 of his 26 points after halftime and South Dakota State stretched its win streak to eight games, defeating South Dakota 85-80 on Sunday.

Douglas Wilson added 20 points for the Jackrabbits, who used an 8-0 burst to take the lead in the final seven minutes. David Wingett and Alex Arians each scored 13 points for South Dakota State (22-8, 13-2 Summit League).

Stanley Umude had 15 points, six rebounds and six assists for the Coyotes (19-11, 9-6). Triston Simpson added 14 points and Cody Kelley 13.

South Dakota State firmed its grip on first place in the Summit League with the win over third-place South Dakota and after second-place North Dakota State's upset loss on Saturday.

The Jackrabbits are 16-0 at home this season.

South Dakota State finishes out the regular season against North Dakota State on the road on Thursday. South Dakota finishes out the regular season against North Dakota at home on Saturday.

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

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South Dakota legislators prepare for crunch time on bills

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Legislators are facing possible late nights this week as a major deadline looms for bills to make it out of the chamber where they were first introduced.

For lawmakers, it will be the last chance to gain momentum for their proposals. But they will also have to work quickly. House Majority Leader Lee Qualm, a Platte Republican, said on Friday that over 100 bills await a committee hearing and some bills have yet to be assigned to a committee.

Lawmakers will consider bills that aim to take away collective bargaining from employees of the Board of Regents; consider the attorney general's proposal to roll back a program that requires judges to sentence low-level felons to probation rather than prison; and try to move negotiations forward on a tight budget.

Several high-profile bills such as Gov. Kristi Noem's revamp of "riot boosting" laws, her proposal to streamline county permits for feedlots and other projects, and the legalization of industrial hemp, will likely be put on the back burner while legislators focus on clearing other bills.

BOARD OF REGENTS

Both the House and the Senate are considering bills that would limit employees of the Board of Regents from collective bargaining. Lawmakers who feel university faculty are too independent from the rest of state government have raised the issue perennially, but this year's Senate bill has the backing of several

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influential Republicans.

Opponents of the bill say collective bargaining is essential to maintaining the independence and intellectual freedom that is important in universities.

A Senate committee is scheduled to tackle that issue on Monday morning.

PRESUMPTIVE PROBATION

Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg campaigned on a promise to get rid of presumptive probation, which is a program that requires judges to sentence low-level felons to probation rather than prison. He was unsuccessful in getting it repealed last year, mostly due to concerns about increased prison populations.

But he's back this year with a compromise that would disqualify people from presumptive probation if they do not cooperate with law enforcement investigations and if they have more than two offenses in a 10-year period.

"Anything that will continue to increase prison population is going to be subject to pretty intense scrutiny in the debate process," Sen. Jim Bolin, a Canton Republican, said.

South Dakota already had a high rate of incarceration compared to neighboring states. The women's prison is near capacity and lawmakers were concerned that rolling back presumptive probation could mean sending prisoners out of state.

BUDGET

Legislative leaders said they would continue to watch the budget closely. Republicans said they would be looking for funding to expand a mental health hotline to every corner of the state, while Democrats said their primary goal remains to fund pay increases for teachers, state employees and service providers.

Lawmakers settled on revenue projections last week that were \$19 million higher than what Noem predicted in December. But the budget will still be tight.

Democrats are pushing a proposal to put the \$32 million made from the state's education trust fund this year into the general fund. That would free up money to fund the pay increases, but they will have to convince fiscally conservative Republicans to back the idea.

US pushes changes to Western land plans that judge blocked

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — U.S. Interior Department officials are seeking to bolster their case for easing restrictions on energy development, mining and grazing in Western states inhabited by a declining bird species.

A federal judge in Idaho blocked the Trump administration plans last year over concerns that they could harm greater sage grouse, a ground-dwelling bird.

Assistant Interior Secretary Casey Hammond says a new set of environmental studies published Friday clarifies the steps the government will take to conserve the bird's habitat.

The Interior Department opened a 45-day public comment period on the studies that cover millions of acres of public lands in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon and California.

Sage grouse have been in decline for decades due to habitat loss and other factors, and their numbers dropped sharply last year across much of their range.

Sage grouse territory in Montana, Washington and the Dakotas was not impacted by the proposed changes.

The legal dispute over the administration's proposal is before Judge B. Lynn Winmill in Idaho.

The case dates to 2016, when environmental groups sued the Obama administration over a previous set of rules that they described as insufficient to protect grouse from heading toward extinction.

India pours on the pageantry with colorful welcome for Trump

By JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

AHMEDABAD, INDIA (AP) — Basking in adulation from a massive, colorful crowd, President Donald Trump and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi lavished each other with praise Monday in a reaffirmation of U.S.-India ties as the subcontinent poured on the pageantry in a joyful welcome for the U.S. president.

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Trump capped his whirlwind day with a sunset tour of India's famed Taj Mahal.

More than 100,000 people packed the world's largest cricket stadium in Modi's home state to give Trump the biggest rally crowd of his political career. The event was the pinnacle of the day's enviable trio of presidential photo-ops, and was sandwiched between Trump's visits to a former home of independence leader Mohandas Gandhi and the Taj Mahal.

Nearly everyone in the newly constructed stadium in Ahmedabad in western India sported a white cap with the name of the event, "Namaste, Trump" or "Welcome, Trump," and roared for the introductions of both leaders.

But miles away in the capital of New Delhi, Indian police used tear gas and smoke grenades to disperse a crowd of clashing protesters hours before Trump was due to arrive, as violence broke out over a new citizenship law that excludes Muslims. Anti-Trump street demonstrations also erupted in Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Gauhati, but not in the city where Trump was hosted.

Embarking on a whirlwind 36-hour visit, Trump opened his speech in Ahmedabad by declaring that he had traveled 8,000 miles to deliver the message that "America loves India, America respects India and America will always be faithful and loyal friends to the Indian people."

The boisterous scene featured musicians on camels and a musical medley of Bollywood hits and Trump's campaign rally playlist, including numerous Elton John songs that seemed to puzzle most of the crowd. Trump basked in the raucous reception that has eluded him on many foreign trips, some of which have featured massive protests and icy handshakes from world leaders. In India, he instead received a warm embrace — literally — from the ideologically aligned and noted hugger Modi.

The sun-baked city of Ahmedabad bustled as Trump arrived, its streets teeming with people eager to catch a glimpse of the American president. Newly cleaned roads and planted flowers dotted the roads amid hundreds of billboards featuring the president and first lady Melania Trump. Thousands lined his motorcade route, shy of the up to 10 million that Trump speculated would be on hand.

His first stop was Gandhi's home, where Trump donned a prayer shawl and removed his shoes to create the incongruous image of a grandiose president quietly walking through the humble ashram. He inspected the spinning wheel used by the famed pacifist and looked at a statue of monkeys representing Gandhi's mantra of "See no evil, Hear no evil, Speak no evil" before departing for a far more boisterous setting: the mega-rally at the world's largest cricket stadium.

Trump's motorcade traveled amid cheers from a battery of carefully picked and vetted Modi loyalists and workers from his Bharatiya Janata Party who stood for hours alongside the neatly manicured 22-kilometer (14-mile) stretch of road to accord the president a grand welcome on his way to the newly constructed stadium. Tens of thousands of police officers were on hand to keep security tight and a new wall has come up in front of a slum, apparently to hide it from presidential passers-by.

On the way to the stadium, Trump's motorcade crossed a river where a barge was emblazoned with "TRUMP" and onlookers chanted "Modi!" The stadium was packed with revelers, many of whom sported Trump and Modi masks, as they sat in 80-degree heat. Scores of attendees, particularly those sitting in the sun, streamed out before Trump finished his 27-minute speech.

The "Namaste Trump" rally was, in a way, the back half of home-and-home events for Modi and Trump, who attended a "Howdy Modi" rally in Houston last year that drew 50,000 people. Trump lavished praise on both Modi and the democracy he leads, touting an effort to lift residents out of extreme poverty, saying "India gives hope to all of humanity."

Trump, whose foreign visits typically are light on sightseeing, told reporters traveling with him that the stadium event was "fantastic." He said he looked forward to his first visit to the Taj Mahal, the immense white marble 17th century mausoleum on the bank of a river in the city of Agra.

"I hear it's incredible," Trump said of the Taj Mahal. "I think it's going to be amazing."

Stories in local media warn of the monkeys that inhabit the landmark and pester tourists for food and, on occasion, menace both visitors and slingshot-carrying security guards.

Images of American presidents being feted on the world stage stand in contrast to those of their rivals

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in the opposing party slogging through diners in early-voting states and clashing in debate. This trip, in particular, reflects a Trump campaign strategy to showcase him in his presidential role during short, carefully managed trips that provide counter-programming to the Democrats' primary contest and produce the kinds of visuals his campaign can use in future ads. His aides also believe the visit could help the president woo tens of thousands of Indian-American voters before the November election.

The visit also comes at a crucial moment for Modi, a fellow populist, who has provided over a steep economic downturn and unfulfilled campaign promises about job creation. When Trump touches down in Delhi later Monday, he will find a bustling, noisy, colorful capital that also is dotted with half-finished construction projects stalled due to disappearing funding.

The president will conclude his whirlwind visit to India on Tuesday in the capital, including meetings with Modi over stalled trade talks and a gala dinner. The two nations are closely allied, in part to act as a bulwark against the rising influence of China. Trump announced at the stadium that India would soon buy \$3 billion of American military equipment.

But trade tensions between the two countries have escalated since the Trump administration imposed tariffs on steel and aluminium from India. India responded with higher penalties on agricultural goods and restrictions on U.S. medical devices. The U.S. retaliated by removing India from a decades-old preferential trade program.

Trump voiced optimism that a deal could be reached but also lightheartedly told the rally crowd about Modi: "Everybody loves him, but I will tell you this. He's very tough."

Eyes will also be on whether Trump weighs in on the protests enveloping India over a new citizenship law that provides a fast track to naturalization for some migrants who entered the country illegally while fleeing religious persecution, but excludes Muslims, raising fears that the country is moving toward a religious citizenship test. Passage has prompted large-scale protests and a violent crackdown.

Trump has refrained from publicly rebuking world leaders for human rights abuses during his overseas trips. He made no specific mention of the citizenship debate during the rally, but included passing references to religious tolerance for all faiths, including Islam. He also specifically referred to the United States' success combating "radical Islamic terrorism," particularly originating from India's longtime rival, Pakistan.

Sheikh Saaliq contributed reporting. Lemire reported from New Delhi. Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann and Darlene Superville in Washington and Emily Schmall in New Delhi contributed to this report.

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

Sanders' 2016 movement now has political machine to push it

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — By the fall of 2018, when Democrats were promoting a slate of centrist candidates to topple Republicans in Congress, Bernie Sanders was seeing a very different picture.

The Vermont senator and avowed democratic socialist was convinced his most fervent supporters were as energized as ever, ready to rally around the political insurgency flag he planted in 2016. He could keep stoking the deep frustration and mistrust of the political system and attract backers who had felt too disillusioned to bother voting in the past — much like President Donald Trump had on the right.

Sanders, 78, the oldest candidate in the race, also saw his unwavering commitment to universal health care, combating climate change, canceling student debt, and tuition-free college continuing to excite young people, including Latinos who came to call him "Tio" (uncle) Bernie.

And, most importantly, he was sure he'd have the money, enough consistent financial backing built on mostly small donations made online from around the country, to finish what he started in 2016, rising from an unknown nationally to a credible challenger to Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination.

This time, Sanders' movement has a political machine to propel it.

"Last time, we really did not know how this would go with our fundraising model," said Jeff Weaver,

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Sanders' senior adviser. "It ended up being \$240 million, but we had no way of knowing that in the spring of 2015, so we were very slow to staff-up in early states. This time, we did things very differently. We knew we were a front-runner."

Now everyone else knows it, too. Sanders' lopsided win Saturday in Nevada caps his remarkable transformation from political insurgent to possibly even a favorite to face off with Trump in November. Both have campaigns built on mobilizing die-hard loyalists but also disaffected voters — even though their politics are polar opposite.

"The Trump Democrats are people that got abandoned by the Democrat Party and Bernie was straightforward about that," said Jim Hightower, a populist former Texas agriculture commissioner who endorsed Sanders in 2016 and remains loyal to him.

Sanders' impressive campaign bank account has helped keep many others loyal to him as well. He raised nearly \$96 million by the end of last year, raked in an additional \$25 million in January and has vowed to raise and spend \$1 billion to defeat Trump in November. His donors are like a faucet that he can turn on as needed because they contribute in small amounts, with little concern of exceeding federal limits.

That stream of cash has also meant Sanders could build a more professional operation, with longer-range planning and better organizational structure.

His last campaign didn't even have a human resources department, something that allowed multiple accusations of sexual harassment among staff to fester and forced Sanders to apologize before launching his 2020 bid. This time, Sanders has emphasized hiring more women and minorities to top positions, including Faiz Shakir, a Pakistani-American, who is the first Muslim to manage a major presidential campaign.

It's a money advantage that few of his competitors can match.

Beyond money and organization, Sanders has also worked to better frame issues. After he struggled in 2016 with foreign policy, Sanders spent the years between presidential runs giving speeches about America's place in the world and became an especially vocal critic of U.S. efforts to help Saudi Arabia fight a war against insurgents backed by Iran in Yemen.

He also worked for change within the structure of the national Democratic Party, muscling through rules changes that helped his campaign this time. "Superdelegates," mainly elected officials and party leaders, helped Clinton secure the party's nomination four years ago. Sanders supporters helped force a change to limit their influence during the national convention coming up this summer in Milwaukee.

And his campaign drove changes in the way that Iowa reported its caucus results by reporting voters' first preference in addition to how many delegates a campaign won. That's allowed Sanders to crow about edging Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, in the popular vote, even though the pair essentially tied in the number of delegates awarded.

"One way to put it is the 2016 campaign was compost that the 2020 campaign has grown out of," said Norman Solomon, co-founder of the activist group RootsAction.org and a Sanders delegate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention. "A lot of campaigns go boom and then go bust after they are over. Bernie is still booming."

It didn't always seem that way. Sanders joined the 2020 race with polling that was largely stable but not overly impressive, showing him among the leaders with former Vice President Joe Biden, but potentially with less room for growth than newcomers like Buttigieg.

To improve his standing, Sanders began hiring staff in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada far faster than in 2016 when "he wasn't well-known and it took a while for people to catch on," said Jane Sanders, the senator's wife and close adviser.

"They didn't know him throughout all of the country and that hurt," she said. "They do now."

Rather than introducing himself to voters, Sanders focused on attracting Iowans who traditionally didn't vote, hiring students who lobbied their classmates. He ultimately won nine of the 13 precincts with more than 20% registered voters under 23.

Sanders also activated volunteers nationwide who supported him in 2016 and began pouring into Iowa as the election neared. By just before caucus night, his campaign said about 1,700 out-of-state volunteers

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had arrived.

"I think a lot of people wanted change in the Obama years and we didn't see enough," said Boyd Walker, a 51-year-old real estate investor who drove from his home in Virginia to volunteer in Iowa for Sanders in the weeks before the caucus. "Now we're really ready for change."

The campaign also concentrated on 87 satellite caucuses, sites which Sanders supporters had lobbied for and which were designed to make voting more accessible for people unable to attend traditional caucuses – which, in some cases, were college students and minority voters.

The campaign said it built similarly strong racially diverse support in heavily Hispanic Nevada, where Sanders advertised in Spanish-language media and organized more than 30 events in Spanish, including a town hall led by one of his top supporters, New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It is attempting to do the same in California and Texas the largest states voting on March 2's "Super Tuesday" and home to an estimated 13.5 million eligible Hispanic voters. During a Saturday night rally in San Antonio, organizers led the more than 1,500 people in the crowd — some of whom didn't speak even basic Spanish — in cries of "Arriba Tio Bernie!"

Wooing minorities, especially African American Democrats throughout the South, was something Sanders was largely unable to do against Clinton in 2016. But his top advisers now say Nevada was a preview of their candidate's improved appeal with people of color that can help carry him through not only this year's primary but the general election against Trump.

Sanders' core message, though, remains an economic one. He's promising to reduce income inequality, appealing to Americans Sanders sees as most hurt by the current system, working-class people and those under 25 — even though they tend to vote in lower numbers.

"They are the hardest constituency to get out to vote," Shakir said. "They've got other things on their mind."

The results so far have been mixed. Sanders vowed to spark unprecedented Iowa caucus turnout and failed. Eight days later he won a New Hampshire primary that featured a record of nearly 300,000 Democratic ballots cast — but that total was inflated by the state's voting-age population that's increasingly rapidly.

Early in the campaign it seemed that Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren was ascendant, and Sanders adjusted. He replaced his state director in New Hampshire and in South Carolina, home to the South's first primary.

And then there was Sanders' heart attack Oct. 1.

"With that, I think he's also reassessed the campaign. Similar to when you're looking at your life and looking at a campaign, you're trying to see what's working, what's not," said Shannon Jackson, Sanders' New Hampshire state director. "It was a great point for us to pivot and really focus on various parts of the campaign that can really hopefully lead us to victory."

Indeed, Sanders was largely able to rebound not by overhauling his campaign, but by simply staying the same. Sanders' top policy advisers say he focuses on making big ideas relatable to people who have felt left out of the political process.

One area the campaign had hoped to stress more this time compared to his 2016 run was Sanders' personal side. In his announcement speech last March in Brooklyn, the senator spoke about growing up in "a three-and-a-half room rent-controlled apartment" nearby. In San Antonio on Saturday night, Sanders told a crowd about 150 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border that he understood the immigrant experience, speaking at length about his father arriving penniless in the U.S. from Poland.

While Sanders has made an undeniable connection with his voters, he hasn't done it by revealing much about himself, something he acknowledged in an interview that aired on "60 Minutes" on Sunday.

"I'm a kind of — private person in a sense," he said. "And ... you know, I'm not particularly anxious to tell the world about everything personal in my life."

The higher he rises, though, the harder that may become.

Italy tries to contain virus as neighbors fear its spread

By PAOLO SANTALUCIA and NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

CODOGNO, Italy (AP) — Police manned checkpoints around quarantined towns in Italy's north on Monday as authorities sought to contain cases of COVID-19 virus that have made Italy the focal point of the outbreak in Europe and fears of its cross-border spread.

Italians travelling abroad were already feeling the effects of a crackdown, with a bus from Milan barricaded by police in the French city of Lyon for health checks and an arriving Alitalia plane blocked on the tarmac in the African island nation of Mauritius.

Civil protection officials said 219 people had tested positive for the virus in Italy and five people had died, including two elderly men in northern Lombardy.

But officials still haven't pinpointed the origin of the contagion, which by Monday had spread to more than a half-dozen regions and prompted Austria to temporarily halt rail traffic across its border with Italy.

"These rapid developments over the weekend have shown how quickly this situation can change," EU Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides said in Brussels. "We need to take this situation of course very seriously, but we must not give in to panic, and, even more importantly, to disinformation."

In France, the government urged anyone who had visited Lombardy or Veneto — the two most affected regions in Italy — to wear face masks if they go outside, limit non-essential activities and take their temperatures twice a day.

The French Health Ministry issued the same warning for anyone who had traveled to China, South Korea, Singapore or Macao. France has had 12 cases of the virus overall, and one death.

In Lyon, the national health agency said officials were "evaluating the situation" of Italians barricaded on a bus that originated in Milan and stopped in Turin, but wouldn't give details, or say whether anyone on the bus is suspected of having the virus.

Italy's neighbors Slovenia and Croatia, which are popular destinations for Italian tourists and whose own citizens often travel to Italy, were holding crisis meetings Monday. Croatia announced it would monitor any travelers coming from Italy, including Croatian children returning from school trips.

Romanian Prime Minister Ludovic Orban said anyone entering Romania from any region where the virus had been reported would be quarantined for 14 days, but local media reported that arriving passengers were only being asked to fill out a form.

In Albania, about 5,000 passengers arriving by plane, ferry and land were being monitored, with special focus on border crossing points targeting travelers from Italy.

Fears stretched as far away as Mauritius, which blocked an Alitalia airplane that had landed. The Italian foreign ministry said it was working to provide "maximum assistance to Italians on board." Many Italians are travelling this week for the mid-winter school holiday, and Mauritius is a popular destination.

But the African island nation has been more assertive than its African counterparts in trying to keep the virus out, announcing quarantines for passengers arriving from Wuhan or displaying symptoms. To date, Africa only has one confirmed case, in Egypt.

While Italian authorities cancelled soccer matches, Masses and closed schools, theater performances and even Venice's famed Carnival, they also sought to calm fears by noting the virus' low mortality rate and the far higher number of Italians who have died from the seasonal flu this year. The four people who died with coronavirus were all elderly and two of them had other serious ailments.

Speaking on state-run RAI news, virologist Iliaria Capua of the University of Florida noted that Italy's high number of cases were due to the fact that Italy was "actively seeking them out." More than 3,000 people have been tested for the virus, most of whom had direct contact with those infected.

"It is likely that the more we look, the more we will find," Capua said. But she stressed that the majority of cases likely wouldn't even require a doctor's visit and that Italy's numbers are "very analogous to what we will see in many other European countries."

Italy, however, wasn't taking chances and effectively sealed off a dozen northern Italian towns where more than 150 of the cases were found. On Monday, police wearing face masks manned checkpoints

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along the road into Codogno, southeast of Milan, where the first patient to test positive for the virus was hospitalized last week.

Residents wearing face masks and gloves lined up at Codogno's supermarket to stock up on food, only to find out the market was still closed on orders of the mayor.

The fears spread to Lombardy's capital, Milan, Italy's financial hub, where the final two runway shows of Milan Fashion Week scheduled for Monday were canceled. While most fashion houses held shows as usual Sunday, Giorgio Armani and Laura Biagiotti presented their collections behind closed doors, streaming live for the fashion public.

On Monday, civil protection chief Angelo Borrelli said the total was at 219 infected, with 167 in Lombardy. Five people had died, and one was cured.

Italy's vice minister for health, Pier Paolo Silveri, said the country was appealing to Italians' "civic sense" to abide by the containment measures for the two weeks that the northern quarantine has been imposed.

The mounting cases surprised Premier Giuseppe Conte, given Italy had imposed more stringent measures than any other European country after the first cases were reported in China. Italy on Jan. 31 barred flights to and from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, began screening all arriving passengers at its airports and declared a state of emergency to free up funding for containment measures.

Until last week, Italy only had registered three people who tested positive for the virus, including a Chinese couple visiting from Wuhan. They have been recovering at Rome's infectious disease hospital.

The EU's health security committee was meeting Monday to take stock of developments, notably in Italy. A joint team from the World Health Organization and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control were also set to visit Italy.

"It is an incredible time. Less than two months ago, the coronavirus was completely unknown to us. The past few weeks has demonstrated just how quickly a new virus can spread around the world and cause widespread fear and disruption," WHO boss Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a news conference in Stockholm via a video link.

He said the WHO was especially concerned about the cases in Italy, South Korea and Iran, where the death toll hit 50 in the city of Qom on Monday.

Winfield reported from Rome. Lorne Cook in Brussels, Angela Charlton in Paris, Jovana Gec in Belgrade, Serbia, Lazar Semini in Tirana, Albania, Vadim Ghirda in Bucharest, Romania, and Cara Anna in Johannesburg contributed.

US sets out case for extradition of WikiLeaks' Assange

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The U.S. government began outlining its extradition case against Julian Assange in a London court on Monday, arguing that the WikiLeaks founder is not a free-speech champion but an "ordinary" criminal who put many lives at risk with his secret-spilling.

U.S. authorities want to try Assange on espionage charges that carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison over the 2010 publication of hundreds of thousands of secret military documents and diplomatic cables.

Lawyer James Lewis, representing the U.S. government, called it "one of the largest compromises of classified information in the history of the United States."

Dozens of Assange supporters protested noisily outside the high-security courthouse as District Judge Vanessa Baraitser began hearing the case.

Assange, 48, watched from the dock at Woolwich Crown Court's court number 2 —brought there from Belmarsh Prison next door, where he has been imprisoned for 10 months. He spoke to confirm his name and date of birth. He nodded towards reporters before taking his seat.

The extradition hearing follows years of subterfuge, diplomatic dispute and legal drama that have led the 48-year-old Australian from fame as an international secret-spiller through self-imposed exile inside

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the Ecuadorian Embassy in London to incarceration in a maximum-security British prison.

Assange has been indicted in the U.S. on 18 charges over the publication of classified documents. Prosecutors say he conspired with U.S. army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to hack into a Pentagon computer and release secret diplomatic cables and military files on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Lewis said U.S. authorities argue that WikiLeaks' activities created a "grave and imminent risk" to U.S. intelligence sources and other people who were named in the documents.

He said it was not the role of the British court to determine whether Assange was guilty.

"This is an extradition hearing, not a trial," he said. "The guilt or innocence of Mr. Assange will be determined at trial in the United States, not in this court."

Assange argues he was acting as a journalist entitled to First Amendment protection, and says the leaked documents exposed U.S. military wrongdoing. Among the files published by WikiLeaks was video of a 2007 Apache helicopter attack by American forces in Baghdad that killed 11 people, including two Reuters journalists.

But Lewis said Assange was guilty of "straightforward" criminal activity.

"What Mr. Assange seeks to defend by free speech is not the publication of the classified materials, but he seeks to defend the publication of sources — the names of people who put themselves at risk to assist the U.S. and its allies," the lawyer said.

"Reporting or journalism is not an excuse for criminal activities or a license to break ordinary criminal laws."

Journalism organizations and civil liberties groups including Amnesty International and Reporters Without Borders say the charges against Assange set a chilling precedent for freedom of the press.

Assange's legal saga began in 2010, when he was arrested in London at the request of Sweden, which wanted to question him about allegations of rape and sexual assault made by two women. He refused to go to Stockholm, saying he feared extradition or illegal rendition to the United States or the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In 2012, Assange sought refuge inside the Ecuadorian Embassy, where he was beyond the reach of U.K. and Swedish authorities.

For seven years Assange led an isolated and increasingly surreal existence in the tiny embassy, which occupies an apartment in an upscale block near the ritzy Harrod's department store. The relationship between Assange and his hosts eventually soured, and he was evicted in April 2019. British police immediately arrested him for jumping bail in 2012.

Sweden dropped the sex crimes investigations in November because so much time had elapsed, but Assange remains in London's Belmarsh Prison as he awaits a decision on the U.S. extradition request.

For his supporters around the world, Assange remains a hero. But many others are critical of the way WikiLeaks has published classified documents without redacting details that could endanger individuals. WikiLeaks has also been accused of serving as a conduit for Russian misinformation, and Assange has alienated some supporters by dallying with populist politicians including Brexit-promoter Nigel Farage.

An end to the saga could still be years away. After a week of opening arguments, the extradition case is due to break until May, when the two sides will lay out their evidence. The judge is not expected to rule until several months after that, with the losing side likely to appeal.

If the courts approve extradition, the British government will have the final say.

The case comes at delicate time for transatlantic relations. The U.K. has left the European Union and is keen to strike a trade deal with the U.S.

Iran lawmaker says 50 dead from new virus in city of Qom

By AYA BATRAWY Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A staggering 50 people have died in the Iranian city of Qom from the new coronavirus this month, a lawmaker was quoted as saying on Monday, even as the Health Ministry insisted only 12 deaths have been recorded to date in the country.

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The new death toll reported by the Qom representative, Ahmad Amiriabadi Farahani, is significantly higher than the latest number of nationwide confirmed cases of infections that Iranian officials had reported just a few hours earlier, which stood at 12 deaths out of 47 cases, according to state TV.

Health Ministry spokesman Iraj Harirchi rejected the Qom lawmaker's claims, insisting the death toll from the virus remains at 12. He, however, raised the number of confirmed cases of those infected by the virus to 61, and added that some 900 other suspected cases are being tested.

"No one is qualified to discuss this sort of news at all," Harirchi said, adding that lawmakers have no access to coronavirus statistics and could be mixing figures on deaths related to other diseases like the flu with the new virus, which first emerged in China in December.

Still, the number of deaths compared to the number of confirmed infections from the virus is higher in Iran than in any other country, including China and South Korea, where the outbreak is far more widespread.

Neighboring countries have reported infections from travelers from Iran in recent days, prompting several to shut their borders to Iranian citizens.

Authorities in Iraq and Afghanistan, which closed their borders with Iran, on Monday announced their first confirmed coronavirus cases. Kuwait also announced its first case.

The virus has infected more than 79,000 people globally, and caused more than 2,600 deaths, most of them in China. The World Health Organization recently named the illness caused by the virus COVID-19, referring to both coronavirus and its origin late last year.

Iraq said the virus was confirmed in an Iranian student in the Shiite holy city of Najaf who had entered the country before Iraq barred Iranians from entering last week. Separately, a person in Afghanistan's western province of Herat who had returned from Iran tested positive for the virus, the health ministry there confirmed.

Farahani, the Iranian lawmaker from Qom, was quoted in local media as saying that more than 250 people are quarantined in that city, which is a popular place of religious study for Shiites from across Iran and other countries. He spoke following a session in parliament in Tehran on Monday, and was quoted by ILNA and other semi-official news agencies.

The lawmaker said the 50 deaths date as far back as Feb. 13. Iran first officially reported cases of the virus and its first deaths in Qom on Feb. 19.

"I think the performance of the administration in controlling the virus has not been successful," Farahani said, referring to the government of President Hassan Rouhani.

"None of the nurses have access to proper protective gears," Farahani said, adding that some health care specialists had left the city. "So far, I have not seen any particular action to confront corona by the administration."

There are concerns that clusters of the new coronavirus in Iran, as well as in Italy and South Korea, could signal a serious new stage in its global spread.

Travelers from Iran infected with the virus have also been confirmed in Canada, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Bahrain's Health Ministry said an infected citizen who returned from Iran on Friday had transited through the world's busiest international airport in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The ministry said the person is a school bus driver, and that students are being checked and related schools will be closed for two weeks.

A top WHO expressed concerns Monday over the virus' spread. "We are worried about the situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in Italy," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

"It is an incredible time. Less than two months ago, the coronavirus was completely unknown to us," Ghebreyesus said. "The past few weeks has demonstrated just how quickly a new virus can spread around the world and cause widespread fear and disruption."

The outbreak in Iran has centered mostly in the city of Qom, but spread rapidly over the past few days as Iranians went to the polls on Friday for nationwide parliamentary elections, with many voters wearing masks and stocking up on hand sanitizer.

Authorities in Iran have closed schools across much of the country for a second day. Soccer fans across Iran are not permitted to attend matches, and shows in movie theaters and other venues have been

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suspended until Friday. Authorities have begun daily sanitization of Tehran's metro, which is used by some 3 million people, and public transportation cars in the city.

Iranian health officials have not said whether health workers in Qom who first came in contact with infected people had taken precautionary measures in treating those who died of the virus. Iran also has not said how many people are in quarantine across the country overall.

Meanwhile, Kuwait announced on Monday its first cases of the virus, saying that three travellers returning from the northeastern city of Mashhad, Iran, were confirmed infected with the coronavirus.

Iran, however, has not yet reported any confirmed cases of the virus in Mashhad, raising further questions about how the Iranian government is carrying out tests and quarantines. Iran has confirmed cases so far in five cities, including the capital, Tehran. A local mayor in Tehran is among those infected and in quarantine.

Ian Mackay, who studies viruses at Australia's University of Queensland said the latest figures mean that "Iran could become the hotspot for seeding countries that have travel with Iran ... a source outside of China."

Iran is already facing diplomatic and economic isolation under U.S. pressure. The virus threatens to isolate Iran even further as its neighbors close their borders to prevent its spread.

Armenia too has closed its border with Iran for two weeks and suspended air traffic between the two countries because of the new coronavirus. Azerbaijan temporarily closed the Bilasuvar and Astara checkpoints on the border with Iran. It remains unclear when the checkpoints will be re-opened.

Georgia too has restricted movement of individuals from Iran to Georgia and vice versa, according to a statement by the country's Foreign Ministry. Georgian authorities said flights between the two countries would be halted.

Associated Press writers Nasser Karimi in Tehran, Iran; Rahim Faiez and Tameem Akhgar in Kabul, Afghanistan; Qassim Abdul-Zahra in Baghdad; Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen, Denmark; Aniruddha Ghosal in New Delhi, India; and Sophiko Megreidze in Tbilisi, Georgia contributed to this report.

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. WHERE DEATH TOLL FROM VIRUS DRAMATICALLY SURGED An Iranian lawmaker says the death toll from the new coronavirus in the city of Qom is 50, even as the Health Ministry insisted only 12 deaths have been recorded to date in the country.

2. WHERE NEW CASES OF NEW VIRUS CONTINUE TO SPIKE The Centers for Disease Control in South Korea reported more than 230 more cases; China reported more than 400 new cases and 150 more deaths.

3. TRUMP RECEIVES A COLORFUL WELCOME India poured on the pageantry with a joyful reception for the president that kicked off a whirlwind 36-hour visit meant to reaffirm U.S.-India ties, but there have been protests against Trump in Indian cities as well.

4. BERNIE SANDER'S 2016 MOVEMENT GETS NEW LIFE IN 2020 The Democratic presidential candidate's team believe his strong stances on climate change, canceling student debt and providing universal health care would reignite strong support among young voters.

5. SHOCKING POLITICAL UPHEAVAL IN MALAYSIA Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad resigned while his political party quit the ruling alliance less than two years after his election victory.

6. WHAT ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER IS BANKING ON TO WIN ELECTION Benjamin Netanyahu hopes President Trump's Mideast plan is key to ramping up support from influential West Bank settlers, but he has stumbled over his promises to quickly carry out annexation, sparking an outcry from settler leaders.

7. THIS AGENCY SKIRTS EVIL OF SLAVERY ON ANTEBELLUM PLANTATIONS The National Register of Historic Places says almost nothing about the enslaved people whose labor paid for ornate homes that today serve as wedding venues, bed-and-breakfast inns and private homes.

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8. WHERE 1 IN 3 PEOPLE IS FACING HUNGER A study by the U.N. World Food Program says some Venezuelans are struggling to put enough food on the table to meet minimum nutrition requirements.

9. JUSSIE SMOLLETT DUE IN COURT The former "Empire" actor is facing a new set of charges alleging he lied to police about being targeted in a racist and homophobic attack in downtown Chicago last year.

10. LOS ANGELES TO HONOR KOBE, GIANNA BRYANT Thousands will gather in Staples Center Monday to say farewell to the basketball superstar and his 13-year-old daughter who died with seven others in a helicopter crash.

Weinstein jury back to work with signs of split over charges

NEW YORK (AP) — Jurors at Harvey Weinstein's New York City rape trial are set to resume deliberations Monday after signaling they are at odds on the top charges in the closely watched #MeToo case.

The jury sent a note to Judge James Burke at the end of a fourth day of deliberations on Friday, asking if it was permissible for the panel to be hung on one or both counts of predatory sexual assault against the disgraced movie mogul while reaching a unanimous verdict on lesser charges.

The judge responded by ordering the jury to keep deliberating and try to reach a consensus, but the query still sparked speculation that the trial could end with a partial verdict by the end of Monday or else lurch forward with no clear end in sight.

Previous notes suggested that jurors were focused on a key aspect of both predatory sexual assault counts — "Sopranos" actress Annabella Sciorra's allegations that Weinstein attacked her in the mid-1990s. The jury must factor in Sciorra's account, along with the accusations that Weinstein raped an aspiring actress in March 2013 and forced oral sex on former film and TV production assistant Mimi Haleyi in 2006, to find him guilty of predatory sexual assault.

A guilty verdict on just one of those two predatory sexual assault charges would likely send Weinstein to prison for the rest of his life.

Weinstein has maintained any sexual encounters were consensual.

The Associated Press has a policy of not publishing the names of people who allege sexual assault without their consent. It is withholding the name of the 2013 rape accuser because it isn't clear whether she wishes to be identified publicly.

For more coverage of the Harvey Weinstein case, visit: <https://apnews.com/HarveyWeinstein>

2020 Watch: Why are there 8 candidates still in the race?

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Presidential politics move fast. What we're watching heading into a new week on the 2020 campaign:

Days to South Carolina primary: 5

Days to Super Tuesday: 8

Days to general election: 253

THE NARRATIVE

Bernie Sanders has become the clear front-runner in the Democrats' presidential nomination fight. And his Democratic critics are only now beginning to realize they're running out of time to stop him. Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg, among others, dramatically intensified their attacks against the Vermont senator over the weekend. But the cluster of candidates splitting up the anti-Sanders vote is not shrinking. Biden is as committed as ever ahead of South Carolina's primary this Saturday, betting that his first victory could slingshot him to the front of the moderate muddle. And Mike Bloomberg, who gets a chance to redeem himself in Tuesday's debate, has 400 million reasons not to get out before Super Tuesday. With eight

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candidates still in the race, Sanders' path to the nomination is growing by the day.

THE BIG QUESTIONS

Why are there eight candidates still in the race?

Sanders' Democratic critics are getting louder. But math is on Sanders' side. The longer a large number of candidates stay in the race, the more likely Sanders becomes the nominee. None of Sanders' seven rivals is showing any signs of going away, even though five of the seven candidates have not finished better than third place through three contests. If that continues? Review the Republicans' 2016 primary to know how this will end.

Can Bloomberg redeem himself?

Bloomberg was bad in his presidential debate debut last week. With his money, you get a second chance at first impression, or so he hopes. The former New York mayor, worth an estimated \$60 billion, could help himself this week. His first shot at redemption comes Monday night when he appears at a CNN town hall for the first time. Just 24 hours later, he'll join five leading rivals for a full-on debate. Perhaps he was surprised by the intensity of the Democratic pile-on during the first meeting. He won't have any excuses this time. Don't forget that Bloomberg has already spent more than \$400 million on television advertising across the nation. That virtually guarantees him a chunk of the Super Tuesday vote.

Should we call it a comeback?

When is a double-digit loss a win? When you're Joe Biden, apparently, and you've finished in a distant second place in Nevada after fourth and fifth place finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire. Biden's campaign manager declared Nevada the beginning of a comeback, and before he left the state, Biden promised a victory in South Carolina on Saturday that would allow him to "take this thing back." He's certainly not the strong centrist that establishment Democrats hoped for, but Biden may be the only candidate not named Sanders with a legitimate chance of winning a state where they don't live over the next eight days. The lifeline he got from Nevada may be meaningless, however, if he doesn't win South Carolina decisively.

Will Warren turn on Bernie?

It's obvious by now that Elizabeth Warren doesn't like Bloomberg. She savaged him during the first debate, then repeatedly used him as foil — even mocking his height a la President Donald Trump — a tactic that no doubt helped her raise a lot of much-needed money.

The deeply personal attacks were closer to Sen. Marco Rubio's "small hands" swipe at then-candidate Trump in 2016 than anything we've seen from the former Harvard professor in 2020. The larger question is whether Warren will turn on Sanders, a fellow progressive stalwart and longtime ally who has dominated the far-left lane so far. Tuesday night's debate may be one of Warren's final prime-time opportunities to do so in a meaningful way.

Are Democrats crossing a line on Russia?

The unified conclusion of the U.S. intelligence community was that the Russians sought to interfere in the 2016 presidential election to benefit Trump. The Russians are back, but this time in a different way and it's affecting the Democratic race. In a fundraising email over the weekend, Buttigieg highlighted news that Russia has sought to intervene on Sanders' behalf in 2020. And Biden went further, declaring from the podium in Nevada that Russian President Vladimir Putin would continue helping "somebody who he doesn't think can beat Trump."

Such attacks will live forever on the internet and raise long-term questions about the legitimacy of the Democratic front-runner's strength. They're also a reminder that there are few lines politicians won't cross when they're fighting for their survival.

THE FINAL THOUGHT

South Carolina may be the focus, but this week is all about Super Tuesday. More than a dozen states will hold primary contests in eight days, and in many cases, voters in those states are already deep into early voting. By the end of March 3, nearly 40% of all delegates will be awarded. And based on the Democrats' allocation rules, anyone coming out of Super Tuesday with a significant delegate lead will be

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almost impossible to catch in the weeks ahead.

It's later than you think.

2020 Watch runs every Monday and provides a look at the week ahead in the 2020 election.

Follow Peoples at <https://twitter.com/sppeoples>

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

German Carnival floats take aim at racism in wake of attack

BERLIN (AP) — Biting commentary on racism in Germany featured prominently Monday among Carnival floats in western cities, hastily put together in the aftermath of a deadly far-right attack last week near Frankfurt.

The floats for parades in Cologne, Duesseldorf, Mainz and elsewhere are notorious for their no-holds-barred satire, and also took aim at Brexit, the potential candidates to take over leadership of Chancellor Angela Merkel's CDU party, and U.S. President Donald Trump. One even featured a clown-like figure labeled "Carnival-Virus" thumbing its nose at an evil looking "Corona-Virus" creature.

Last Wednesday, a 43-year-old German man who had posted a racist screed online advocating genocide gunned down nine people of foreign background in the Frankfurt suburb of Hanau, before apparently killing himself and his mother.

It was the latest in a string of far-right attacks in Germany and many have pointed the finger at the Alternative for Germany party, suggesting its nationalist anti-migrant rhetoric has helped create the climate for violence.

One Duesseldorf float depicted a red-faced man yelling in rage, a pistol protruding from his mouth with the word "racism" on the barrel. On the side was the slogan "from words come deeds" and a list of the attacks, including Hanau.

In Cologne, a somber float depicted a weeping Carnival jester holding a heart with the slogan "our heart beats for Hanau."

Another Duesseldorf float featured Alternative for Germany regional leader Bjoern Hoecke, who called Berlin's memorial to the victims of the Nazi Holocaust a "monument of shame," giving a Nazi salute, with his outstretched arm being held up by figures from Merkel's CDU party and the pro-business FDP.

Festivities in several cities were called off Sunday due to high winds but the Monday parades were expected to go ahead.

Mahathir offers resignation in Malaysian political upheaval

By EILEEN NG Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad tendered his resignation to Malaysia's king on Monday while his political party quit the ruling alliance, in a shocking political upheaval less than two years after his election victory.

The prime minister's office said in a brief statement that Mahathir, 94, submitted his resignation to the palace at 1 p.m. but gave no further details. Mahathir also quit as chairman of his Bersatu party.

The stunning turn of events come amid plans by Mahathir's supporters in Bersatu to team with opposition parties to form a new government and thwart the transition of power to his named successor, Anwar Ibrahim.

Minutes before his resignation was offered, Bersatu said it would leave the four-party Alliance of Hope and support Mahathir as the prime minister. Eleven other lawmakers, including several Cabinet ministers, also announced they are quitting Anwar's party to form an independent bloc.

The withdrawal of more than three dozen lawmakers means the ruling alliance has lost its majority in

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Parliament, throwing the country into an uncertain future and sparking fears of more turmoil over how the political drama will play out.

Opinions are divided on whether Mahathir is quitting for good or making a tactical move to buy time to cobble together a new majority to form a government.

King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, who met Bersatu and several other leaders on Sunday, met Anwar on Monday afternoon and summoned Mahathir to the palace. Analysts said the king could decide on which faction has the support or dissolve Parliament for snap elections.

The political drama unraveled Sunday with maneuvers aimed at keeping Mahathir in power and thwarting Anwar, replaying their decades-old feud. Anwar was Mahathir's deputy during Mahathir's first stint as prime minister but fell out politically before reuniting in the political pact that ousted a corruption-tainted government in the May 2018 election. Mahathir has refused to set a date to relinquish power despite a preelection agreement to hand over power to Anwar.

Anwar confirmed late Sunday there were attempts by some Bersatu members and "traitors" from his party to form a new government in a "betrayal" of their political pact. He said Monday after meeting Mahathir with other alliance leaders that Mahathir had quit as he didn't want to be associated with the former government that he worked so hard to oust in 2018 polls.

"His name was used, by those within my party and outside," Anwar told reporters. Mahathir "reiterated to me what he had said earlier, that he played no part in it and he made it very clear, that in no way will he ever work with those associated with the past regime," he added.

Ironically, the maneuvers would restore to power the Malay party of disgraced former leader Najib Razak, who with several of his party leaders are standing trial for corruption. It would also propel to national power a fundamentalist Islamic party that rules two states and champions Islamic laws. The two Malay parties still have strong support from ethnic Malays, who account for 60% of Malaysia's 32 million people.

Mahathir has remained silent, but many Malaysians reacted with dismay and shock on social media, saying moves to form a "backdoor" government would be unethical and that a new election should be called if the ruling alliance collapses.

In a new twist, two other parties in Anwar's alliance said they would propose at an emergency meeting Monday night that Mahathir remain as prime minister to continue their reformist agenda.

Analysts warned that such a new government could give rise to Malay Islamic supremacy that would derail Malaysia's multi-ethnic society.

"If the new government goes through, Malaysia is heading toward a a very regressive stage whereby racial supremacy and religious extremism would become the rule of the day," said Oh Ei Sun, a senior fellow at the Singapore Institute of International Affairs.

South Korean cases jump, China counts 150 more virus deaths

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea reported another large jump in new virus cases Monday a day after the the president called for "unprecedented, powerful" steps to combat the outbreak that is increasingly confounding attempts to stop the spread.

The 231 new cases bring South Korea's total to 833 cases, and two more deaths raise its toll to seven.

China also reported 409 new cases on Monday, raising the mainland's total to 77,150 after a zigzag pattern of increases in recent days. The 150 new deaths from the COVID-19 illness raised China's total to 2,592 and showed a spike after hovering around 100 for four days. All but one death were in Hubei province, where the outbreak emerged in December.

Significant jumps in cases outside China have raised concern of the outbreak getting out of control. South Korea has the third-highest national total behind China and Japan, and cases have rapidly increased in Italy and Iran in just a few days.

Most of Japan's cases were from the Diamond Princess cruise ship, where nearly one-fifth of its 3,711 passengers and crew became infected.

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More than 140 of South Korea's new cases were in and near Daegu, the city of 2.5 million people where most of the country's infections have occurred. Five of the seven deaths were linked to a hospital in Cheongdo, near Daegu, where a slew of infections were confirmed among patients in a mental ward.

While officials have expressed hope they could contain the outbreak to the region surrounding Daegu, some experts noted signs of the virus circulating nationwide, pointing to a number of cases in the capital, Seoul, and elsewhere that weren't immediately traceable.

"In Daegu, the number of new cases that are being confirmed by tests is quite large, and if we fail to effectively stem community transmissions in this area, there would be a large possibility (that the illness) spreads nationwide," South Korean Vice Health Minister Kim Gang-lip said in a briefing, saying that the government aims to stabilize Daegu's situation in four weeks.

He said that health officials plan to test all of the city's residents exhibiting cold-like symptoms, which he said would be about 28,000 people. Health workers are also screening some 9,000 followers of the Daegu branch of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, where a woman in her 60s attended two services before testing positive for the virus.

Of the country's 161 new cases, 129 were related to the church. Officials are also investigating a possible link between churchgoers and the spike in infections at a hospital in nearby Cheongdo.

The national government has shuttered schools, cancelled events, and asked companies to scatter working hours and keep employees at home if they experience coughs or other respiratory symptoms. It advised people to avoid crowded indoor spaces and pleaded that those who recently visited Daegu or nearby areas stay at home if possible for two weeks, asking reporters to exercise the same caution.

Seoul's Mayor Park Won-soon scattered the working hours of some 40,000 city employees to ease transit congestion and warned of sterner action against protesters who defied a ban on rallies in major downtown areas that was meant to stop the spread of the virus.

Far from where the illness first emerged, authorities in Italy battled to contain Europe's first major outbreak and Iran reported eight deaths — the highest toll outside of China. Some of the clusters in recent days have no link to China, a worrying sign of the virus spread.

The Iranian health ministry has reported 43 cases since Wednesday and several countries reported cases connected to travel to Iran. Kuwait confirmed its first cases Monday in three people who had traveled from Iran, and Bahrain reported its first case, also a traveler returning from Iran. The United Arab Emirates said new cases there included Iranian tourists.

A number of countries have closed their borders with Iran or effectively barred travelers from there, a similar step to the actions numerous countries have taken to ward off the spread of the illness from China.

In Italy's northern Lombardy region, which includes the nation's financial capital, Milan, the governor announced Sunday that the number of confirmed cases stood at 110. Italy now has 152 cases, the largest number outside of Asia, including three deaths.

Venice, which is full of tourists for Carnival events, reported its first two cases, said Veneto Gov. Luca Zaia, whose region includes the lagoon city. It wasn't immediately known if the two infected had participated in Carnival festivities.

As Italy scrambled to check the spread of the virus, authorities announced that all Carnival events had been called off as well as major league soccer matches in the stricken region. Cinemas and theaters were also ordered shuttered, including Milan's legendary La Scala.

Warning that China's virus epidemic is "still grim and complex," President Xi Jinping called for more efforts to stop the outbreak, revive industry and prevent the disease from disrupting spring planting of crops. Xi defended the ruling Communist Party's response as "timely and effective" in a video conference with officials in charge of anti-disease work, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Meanwhile, a diplomatic row erupted after Israel turned back a South Korean airliner, underscoring fear and tensions over the outbreak.

A Korean Air flight with 188 passengers that landed at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport Saturday evening was taxied away from the terminal while authorities allowed only 11 Israelis to enter the country. The

plane returned to South Korea with the rest of the passengers on Sunday.

Seoul's Foreign Ministry said it was closely monitoring the incident and will evacuate South Korean tourists from Israel if necessary. Yonhap news agency cited South Korea's Foreign Ministry as registering a strong protest with the Israeli government.

Israel's Foreign Ministry issued travel warnings to South Korea and Japan due to the coronavirus, and the Health Ministry ordered Israelis returning from those countries to remain in home quarantine, as previously ordered for those returning from Hong Kong, China, Macau, Thailand and Singapore.

Associated Press journalists Ken Moritsugu in Beijing and Aya Batrawy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

Los Angeles honors Kobe, Gianna Bryant with public memorial

By GREG BEACHAM AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Thousands of mourners will gather in Staples Center on Monday to say farewell to Kobe and Gianna Bryant.

The basketball superstar and his 13-year-old daughter will be honored in a public memorial at the arena where Bryant played for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Kobe and Gianna Bryant died along with seven others on Jan. 26 in a helicopter crash.

The Celebration of Life will feature speakers reflecting on Kobe Bryant's impact on his sport and the world, along with music and retrospectives on Bryant's on-court achievements. Bryant became active in film, television and writing after he retired from basketball in 2016.

Bryant's family, dozens of sports greats and many major figures in Bryant's public life are expected to attend.

Staples Center is sold out for the memorial. The money made from ticket sales will be given to the Mamba and Mambacita Sports Foundation, which supports youth sports programs in underserved communities and teaches sports to girls and women.

Bryant played his entire 20-year NBA career with the Lakers, including the final 17 seasons at Staples Center, which opened in 1999. The five-time NBA champion's two retired jersey numbers — 8 and 24 — hang high above the arena where he became the third-leading scorer in league history until Lakers star LeBron James passed him on the night before Bryant's death.

Bryant's death caused an outpouring of grief across Los Angeles, where he remained the city's most popular athlete into retirement. Dozens of public memorials and murals have been installed around the sprawling metropolis, and thousands of fans gathered daily outside Staples Center to commiserate after the crash.

Symbolic meanings will run throughout the ceremony, which will be held on a 24-foot-by-24-foot stage. Vanessa Bryant, Kobe's wife and Gianna's mother, chose Feb. 24 as the date in honor of the uniform numbers of Kobe and Gianna, who wore No. 2 on her youth basketball teams.

A private funeral was held for Kobe and Gianna Bryant in Orange County on Feb. 7.

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/NBA> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Netanyahu banks on Trump plan to drive up pro-settler votes

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

ATERET, West Bank (AP) — With Israel's prime minister eager to court the votes of the country's influential West Bank settlers, President Donald Trump's Mideast plan seemed to be the key to ramping up their support ahead of critical elections next week.

The plan envisions Israel's eventual annexation of its scores of West Bank settlements — a longtime settler dream. But in the weeks since it was unveiled, Benjamin Netanyahu has stumbled over his promises to quickly carry out the annexation, sparking an outcry from settler leaders and threatening any goodwill

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he hoped to gain from the plan.

"If there is something that undermines the stability of the campaign in Netanyahu's eyes, it is attacks from the right," the columnist Mati Tuchfeld wrote in the pro-Netanyahu daily Israel Hayom. "It is not only the fate of Judea and Samaria that is on the line. His political fate is as well." Judea and Samaria is the biblical name for the West Bank.

Israel heads to the polls for the third time in less than a year next Monday. The previous two rounds ended in deadlock, with neither Netanyahu nor his challenger Benny Gantz able to secure a 61-seat parliamentary majority. Pre-election polls show a similar impasse emerging from the next vote.

Facing a corruption trial two weeks after the election, Netanyahu is desperate to remain prime minister, a position he can use to rally public support as he fights the charges.

In a bid to move the needle in his favor, Netanyahu has spent the final weeks of the campaign handing out political gifts to different constituents. The Trump plan has been the centerpiece of that strategy.

The plan, announced at the White House in late January with much fanfare, sides with Israel on most of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict's main sticking points. Beyond granting Israel sovereignty over large parts of the occupied West Bank, it falls far short of the Palestinian dream of an independent state. Instead, it calls for giving them limited autonomy over a disjointed archipelago of land, and only if they meet a stringent set of demands.

Seeing the plan as a green light, Netanyahu quickly pledged to steam ahead with annexation. But a Cabinet meeting announced by his office never convened, with Netanyahu apparently reined in by officials at the White House who balked at his premature zeal.

Netanyahu has since tempered expectations on his annexation vow, fending off attacks from hard-liners by saying he must first map the territory with the Americans.

"We don't want to risk this. We are working responsibly and rationally," Netanyahu told his Cabinet earlier this month. "To all those chirping in from outside and even from within the government: We did the work, we will complete the work."

Israel captured the West Bank, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Mideast war. The international community, including a string of U.S. presidents, has long opposed Israel's settlements, seeing them as obstacles to peace that gobble up Israeli-occupied land sought by the Palestinians for an independent state.

But Trump, backed by a team of Mideast advisers with close ties to the settlement movement, has taken a more lenient approach. His vision, with its tacit approval of Israel's settlements, sparked feverish calls from settlers for Israel to immediately annex parts of the West Bank, including more than 120 settlements, home to nearly 500,000 Israelis.

Netanyahu's about-face has triggered a backlash among settler leaders, including some within his own party. Settlers have erected a protest tent outside Netanyahu's Jerusalem office, and have staged protests and been outspoken in their criticism.

"Israel should impose sovereignty even if America doesn't agree," said Yossi Dagan, a settler leader who has led the charge for annexation and is also an influential activist in Netanyahu's Likud party. "This was a mistake and the prime minister must correct it."

Netanyahu's enthusiasm for the plan has drawn criticism from even more hard-line settler supporters who believe it doesn't go far enough.

Although they support the annexation plans, they oppose the establishment of the limited Palestinian state and the proposed creation of settlement "enclaves" surrounded by Palestinian territory. They believe the creation of a Palestinian state — even in its weakened form — endangers Israel in the long term.

Also threatening Netanyahu is the fringe hard-right political party Jewish Power. The party, led by followers of the late rabbi Meir Kahane, who was expelled from Israeli politics over his racist views, has been Netanyahu's foil throughout the repeated election campaigns.

Jewish Power's leaders have rejected Netanyahu's calls for the party to drop out of the race, despite forecasts that it will not come close to reaching the threshold for entering parliament. That means those votes, which could prop up Likud or the allied pro-settler Yamina party, are likely to go to waste.

The pro-settler vote is typically split between Likud, which mainly appeals to secular nationalists but also has a religious-nationalist cohort, and Yamina, where many settlers find an ideological home.

In a new gesture to the settlers, Netanyahu on Thursday promised to build thousands of new homes in east Jerusalem, including the last remaining open space that could potentially link Palestinian areas of the West Bank to the city.

While it's unclear whether the recent developments will harm Netanyahu, they have roused longstanding settler wariness of him. Many accuse him of making empty promises and not being committed enough to their cause.

"There is suspicion of Bibi, over 'how much is he on our side?'" said Yair Sheleg, a research fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute, referring to Netanyahu by his nickname. "The question is, in the contest between between Likud and Yamina, what will they prefer?"

Eli Rosenbaum, a school principal who lives in the Ateret settlement, which under Trump's plan would be encircled by a Palestinian state, said he wasn't buying Netanyahu's pitch.

"Bibi used (annexation) as election spin and he quickly understood that he doesn't want to do it," Rosenbaum said from his kitchen, which overlooks a huge Palestinian flag rising from nearby Rawabi, a Palestinian town. "The moment he thought that he received our support, he backed down."

Jussie Smollett to make 1st court appearance on new charges

By DON BABWIN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Former "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett is due to make an initial court appearance Monday on a new set of charges alleging that he lied to police about being targeted in a racist and homophobic attack in downtown Chicago early last year.

Smollett, 37, is expected to plead not guilty to the six counts of felony disorderly conduct during Monday's hearing. He pleaded not guilty to 16 counts of the charge in the same courthouse last year, just weeks before the Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx's office abruptly announced it was dismissing the case, angering police and City Hall.

Special Prosecutor Dan Webb, a former U.S. attorney who was appointed to examine the state's attorney's office's handling of the case, is expected to attend. Foxx's office is not involved in the new case against Smollett.

Smollett, who has denied police allegations that he staged the attack to get attention and further his career, will first appear before Chief Judge LeRoy Martin Jr., who will tell him which judge will be assigned to preside over the case. Martin could order Smollett to return to court on another day for his first hearing before that judge, but it is more likely that he will simply tell the actor and the attorneys to immediately report to the trial judge.

Defendants typically enter not guilty pleas during initial hearings before the trial judge, who sets bond amounts that defendants must post to secure their release from custody. Attorneys often arrange for defendants to post bond at the clerk's office rather than be taken into custody.

Smollett, who is black and gay, told police that two masked men attacked him as he was walking home in the early hours of Jan. 29, 2019. He said they made racist and homophobic insults, beat him and looped a noose around his neck before fleeing, and that at least one of his attackers was a white man who told him he was in "MAGA country," a reference to President Donald Trump's campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again."

Weeks later, police alleged that Smollett had paid two black friends to help stage the attack.

Smollett has maintained his innocence, telling reporters after the charges were dropped last year that, "I would not be my mother's son if I was capable of one drop of what I was accused of."

His attorney, Tina Glandian, questioned the integrity of special prosecutor's investigation after the new charges were announced this month, pointing out that Webb's probe relied on the same detectives who were part of the original investigation despite pending civil claims that Smollett is pursuing against the city and police for malicious prosecution.

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Foxx's handling of the case, meanwhile, has become a key issue in her bid for re-election, with her opponents accusing her of having acted haphazardly and indecisively.

After Nevada, moderates try to slow Sanders' momentum

ALEXANDRA JAFFE and MEG KINNARD Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Bernie Sanders' commanding Nevada caucus victory made him a top target for his Democratic rivals and a growing source of anxiety for establishment Democrats worried that the nomination of an avowed democratic socialist could cost the party in November.

The win solidified Sanders' front-runner status as the race turned to Saturday's presidential primary in South Carolina. The Vermont senator was trounced in the state by more than 40 percentage points in 2016, but he is hoping that his success in diverse Nevada will prove to black voters in South Carolina that his campaign has broad appeal.

Any momentum that Sanders gains in South Carolina could be devastating to former Vice President Joe Biden, who is looking to the state for a commanding victory that can keep his candidacy alive through Super Tuesday. The March 3 contests will unfold in 14 states and award one-third of the delegates needed for the Democratic nomination.

With time running short, moderate Democrats grew increasingly nervous Sunday that Sanders' call for a political "revolution" would drive voters away from the party, both in the matchup against President Donald Trump and in House and Senate races.

"I think it would be a real burden for us in these states or congressional districts that we have to do well in," South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn, the House majority whip and the top-ranking black Democrat in Congress, said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

Prominent Democrats expect Clyburn will endorse Biden this week. The congressman said he'll back a candidate on Wednesday — after the next Democratic debate — and pointed to the impact a Sanders nomination would have on House districts Democrats flipped to take control of the House in 2018.

"In those districts, it's going to be tough to hold on to these jobs if you have to make the case for accepting a self-proclaimed democratic socialist," he said.

Sanders' campaign argued he will bring in new and infrequent voters — largely progressives, young people and voters of color — who have been alienated from the process and seek a drastic overhaul of Washington, not merely trying to oust Trump.

He successfully relied on that coalition Saturday to dominate his Democratic rivals in Nevada, pulling far ahead of Biden, the second-place finisher, and Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, who came in third. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren landed in fourth, while Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar and California billionaire Tom Steyer were in a close race for fifth as the Nevada Democratic Party continued to tabulate results.

Sanders celebrated the win in Texas, a top Super Tuesday prize and a state that Democrats see trending their way thanks to a growing Hispanic population and opposition to Trump in the suburbs.

Sounding like a candidate who had already secured the nomination, Sanders told thousands of cheering supporters who filled a basketball arena on the campus of the University of Houston that he would win in the state both next month and next fall.

"If working people and young people of this city, black and white and Latino, gay or straight, if our people stand together, come out to vote, we're going to win here in Texas," he said.

Sanders was announcing a plan to provide universal, government-funded child care until age 3 and universal pre-kindergarten programs after that. In an interview with "60 Minutes" that aired Sunday night, he said he'd pay for it using part of the proceeds from his previously announced wealth tax, which would be levied annually on fortunes worth more than \$32 million.

Sanders' new status was clear as most of his rivals sharpened their focus on him.

On Sunday, Buttigieg ripped Sanders' for his massive and often combative online following, saying the nominee's job "is to call people into our tent, not to call them names online."

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Speaking to a crowd of thousands gathered in a high school football field in Arlington, Virginia, Buttigieg said Democrats should nominate someone who will focus on "mobilizing, not polarizing the American majority."

"Politics will be fierce sometimes, but it is not just combat," he said.

But some Democrats were worried that the new focus on Sanders may be too little, too late. For months, as several Democrats jockeyed to become the chief alternative to Sanders, they largely attacked each other on debate stages and in ads while taking relatively few punches at the Vermont senator.

Indeed, even after Sanders' strong finish in Nevada, Warren avoided launching a direct hit at Sanders even when asked directly whether a Sanders nomination would be a risk for the Democratic Party. The Massachusetts senator is aligned with Sanders on a number of key policies and competing with the Vermont senator for many of the same progressive voters.

Speaking to reporters in Denver, Warren instead continued her attacks on rival Mike Bloomberg, calling him the "riskiest candidate standing on that stage because of his history of hiding his taxes, his history of harassment of women and his history of defending racist policies."

Bloomberg, for his part, asked to delay a CNN town hall that was planned for Monday until Wednesday. The move will allow the billionaire former New York mayor to spend more time preparing for this week's debate.

"The country can't afford to let Bernie Sanders skate by another debate without a focus on his extreme record," said Bloomberg spokesperson Galia Slayen. "Mike is preparing for Tuesday's crucial debate, and looks forward to taking part in CNN's town hall on Wednesday."

Party leaders have been reluctant to appear to be putting their thumb on the scale, so as not to rile Sanders voters and further divide the party. It was not clear Sunday that there was any new strategy to try to knock Sanders off course or consolidate support behind a single moderate.

"We gotta hope that some of these candidates develop political skills quickly," said James Carville, a Democratic strategist and one of the noisiest anti-Sanders voices in the party. "The risk in losing the election is deep and profound. We just gotta pray."

Dan Pfeiffer, a former adviser to former President Barack Obama, said if no candidates drop out before Super Tuesday and the moderates continue to split the delegate, Sanders likely has a lock on the nomination.

"It's just simple math," Pfeiffer said, noting that he's not advocating that any candidates drop out to stop Sanders, and that he doesn't ascribe to the belief among some Democrats that Sanders can't win.

"Each of these campaigns have a legitimate rationale for staying in the race," he said of Sanders' opponents.

On Sunday, those Sanders opponents pledged to stay in the race through South Carolina, and several signaled they would stay in through Super Tuesday.

Klobuchar rallied supporters near the North Dakota-Minnesota border, speaking to voters in her home state, which votes on March 3, followed by North Dakota on March 10. Warren campaigned in Colorado, also a Super Tuesday state.

Biden was in South Carolina, the state his campaign hoped would revive his candidacy after poor showings in Iowa and New Hampshire and only modest improvement in Nevada. The former vice president resisted predicting victory in South Carolina and said he isn't banking on Clyburn's endorsement, a blessing that could help Biden shore up support with the black voters his campaign has long argued will be the springboard to a nomination. Clyburn said Sunday he had heard from Democrats disappointed in Biden's debate performances.

Democrats will debate on Tuesday in Charleston, South Carolina. Steyer said Sunday he has qualified for that debate, after missing the mark for the stage in Nevada.

Jaffe reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Nicholas Riccardi in Denver, Will Weissert in Houston, Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California, and Bill Barrow in Charleston, South Carolina, contributed to this report.

Haiti police exchange fire with troops near national palace

By **EVENS SANON** and **MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN** Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitian police officers exchanged gunfire for hours Sunday with soldiers of the newly reconstituted army outside the national palace, in a dangerous escalation of protests over police pay and working conditions.

At least three police officers were wounded, fellow officers told The Associated Press. The army's high command said in an online statement that a soldier had been wounded by a bullet in the back.

Haiti's raucous three-day Carnival celebration was to have started Sunday afternoon in Port-au-Prince and other major cities but the government announced Sunday night that Carnival was cancelled in the capital "to avoid a bloodbath." Police protesters and their backers had burned dozens of Carnival floats and stands at recent protests, saying they did not believe the country should be celebrating during a crisis.

Shortly after noon Sunday, AP journalists saw dozens of men who said they were off-duty officers march with hundreds of supporters toward the palace in the latest in days of demonstrations demanding better pay for Haitian law-enforcement officers.

The protest stopped outside the army headquarters, which faces the palace.

AP journalists then saw soldiers at the headquarters building fire into the air. Shortly afterward, an exchange of fire erupted between the soldiers and police. It was not clear which side began firing at the other first.

As the afternoon wore on, uniformed officers joined their colleagues in the street outside the palace, firing at the military base with semi-automatic pistols and rifles. Many wore masks along with their uniforms to hide their identities.

Other armed men spotted a drone that appeared to be taking images of the violence and followed it to the offices of Radio Caraibes, then began shooting at the broadcaster's building. There were no immediate reports of casualties in the attack.

Police protests began this month after a half-dozen officers were fired over their attempt to unionize. The demonstrations are not directly linked to anti-corruption protests that roiled Haiti for most of last year, but they draw on the same widespread dissatisfaction with Haiti's shrinking economy and President Jovenel Moise's inability to improve the quality of life.

A uniformed police officer in a black-and-white clown mask told reporters outside the palace that officers were demanding the reinstatement of their fired colleagues as well as a pay raise for all officers.

"Until this is done we will not sit and talk," said the officer, who declined to provide his name. "The president has proven that he does not care about our demands."

Moise said at a news conference Saturday that he recognized the legitimacy of many police complaints and would increase some collateral benefits for officers, but police said Sunday that the concessions were not enough.

The Haitian army had been disbanded in 1995 after the fall of a dictatorship that used soldiers to repress domestic opponents. Moise reformed the army in 2017, promising that the military would patrol Haiti's borders, assist in natural disasters and avoid domestic affairs.

At least three men were taken to a hospital near the shooting with wounds to the legs and feet that did not appear to be life-threatening. Uniformed police officers told an AP journalist that the wounded men were fellow officers. The uniformed officers spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press.

Intense shooting continued until after 6 p.m., when it devolved into sporadic exchanges of fire.

Associated Press journalist Evens Sanon reported this story in Port-au-Prince and AP writer Michael Weissenstein reported from Havana.

UN study: 1 of every 3 Venezuelans is facing hunger

By **JORGE RUEDA** and **CHRISTINE ARMARIO** Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — One of every three people in Venezuela is struggling to put enough food on the table to meet minimum nutrition requirements as the nation's severe economic contraction and political upheaval persists, according to a study published Sunday by the U.N. World Food Program.

A nationwide survey based on data from 8,375 questionnaires reveals a startling picture of the large number of Venezuelans surviving off a diet consisting largely of tubers and beans as hyperinflation renders many salaries worthless.

A total of 9.3 million people – roughly one-third of the population – are moderately or severely food insecure, said the World Food Program's study, which was conducted at the invitation of the Venezuelan government. Food insecurity is defined as an individual being unable to meet basic dietary needs.

The study describes food insecurity as a nationwide concern, though certain states like Delta Amacuro, Amazonas and Falcon had especially high levels. Even in more prosperous regions, one in five people are estimated to be food insecure.

"The reality of this report shows the gravity of the social, economic and political crisis in our country," said Miguel Pizarro, a Venezuelan opposition leader.

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has been largely reluctant in recent years to invite international organizations to provide assessments of the nation's humanitarian ordeal, though the World Food Program said it was granted "full independence" and collected data throughout the country "without any impediment or obstruction."

"WFP looks forward to a continuation of its dialogue with the Venezuelan government and discussions that will focus on the way forward to provide assistance for those who are food insecure," the agency said in a statement.

There was no immediate response to the findings by Maduro's government.

The survey found that 74% of families have adopted "food-related coping strategies," such as reducing the variety and quality of food they eat. Sixty percent of households reported cutting portion sizes in meals, 33% said they had accepted food as payment for work and 20% reported selling family assets to cover basic needs.

The issue appears to be one that is less about the availability of food and more about the difficulty in obtaining it. Seven in 10 reported that food could always be found but said it is difficult to purchase because of high prices. Thirty-seven percent reported they had lost their job or business as a result of Venezuela's severe economic contraction.

Venezuela has been in the throes of a political and humanitarian crisis that has led over 4.5 million people to flee in recent years. Maduro has managed to keep his grip on power despite a push by opposition leader Juan Guaidó to remove him from office and mounting U.S. sanctions.

Maduro frequently blames the Trump administration for his nation's woes, and his government has urged the International Criminal Court to open an investigation, alleging that the financial sanctions are causing suffering and even death. The nation's struggles to feed citizens and provide adequate medical care predate U.S. sanctions on the Venezuelan government.

In addition to food, the survey also looked at interruptions in access to electricity and water, finding that four in 10 households experience daily power cuts. Four in 10 also reported recurrent interruptions in water service, further complicating daily life.

Noting that the survey was done in July through September, Carolina Fernández, a Venezuelan rights advocate who works with vulnerable women, said she believes the situation has deteriorated even more. While it was once possible for many families to survive off remittances sent by relatives abroad, she said, that has become more difficult as much of the economy is dollarized and prices rise.

"Now it's not enough to have one person living abroad," she said.

Fernández said food insecurity is likely to have an enduring impact on a generation of young Venezuelans going hungry during formative years.

"We're talking about children who are going to have long-term problems because they're not eating adequately," she said.

Those who are going hungry include people like Yonni Gutiérrez, 56, who was standing outside a restaurant that sells roasted chickens in Caracas on Sunday.

The unemployed man approached the restaurant's front door whenever a customer left with a bag of food, hoping they might share something. He said he previously had been able to scrape by helping unload trucks at a market, but the business that employed him closed.

"Sometimes, with a little luck, I get something good," he said of his restaurant stakeout.

Associated Press writer Jorge Rueda reported this story in Caracas and AP writer Christine Armario reported from Bogota, Colombia.

Italy rushes to contain Europe's first major virus outbreak

By **LUCA BRUNO** and **FRANCES D'EMILIO** Associated Press

CODOGNO, Italy (AP) — Italy scrambled Sunday to check the spread of Europe's first major outbreak of the new viral disease amid rapidly rising numbers of infections and a third death, calling off the popular Venice Carnival, scrapping major league soccer matches in the stricken area and shuttering theaters, including Milan's legendary La Scala.

Concern was also on the rise in neighboring Austria, which halted all rail traffic to and from Italy for several hours after suspicion that a train at its southern border with Italy had two passengers possibly infected with the virus on board, authorities said. Austria's interior ministry said it had been informed by Italy's railway company that two passengers had fever and stopped the train at the Brenner crossing before it could enter Austria.

However, just before midnight Austria's Federal Railways announced on Twitter the ban had been lifted. Austrian Interior Minister Karl Nehammer said the two people suspected of being infected with the virus on the Eurocity 86 train from Venice to Munich had tested negative and the train would be allowed to continue on its way, according to the ORF broadcast network.

The decision to call off Venice Carnival was announced by Veneto regional Gov. Luca Zaia as the number of confirmed virus cases soared to 152, the largest number outside Asia.

"The ordinance is immediately operative and will go into effect at midnight," said Zaia, whose area includes Venice, where thousands packed St. Mark's Square. Carnival would have run through Tuesday.

Road blocks were set up in at least some of 10 towns in Lombardy at the epicenter of the outbreak, including in Casalpusterlengo, to keep people from leaving or arriving. Even trains transiting the area weren't allowed to stop.

Buses, trains and other forms of public transport — including boats in Venice — were being disinfected, Zaia told reporters. Museums were also ordered to shut down after Sunday in Venice, a top tourist draw anytime of the year, as well as in neighboring Lombardy, which, with at least 110 confirmed cases, is the epicenter of the viral outbreak.

Authorities said three people in Venice have tested positive for the viral disease known as COVID-19, all of them in their late 80s and who were hospitalized in critical condition.

Other northern regions with smaller numbers of cases are Emilia-Romagna and Piedmont.

Italy's first two cases were a Chinese tourist couple, diagnosed earlier this month and reported recovering in a Rome hospital.

The death on Sunday of an elderly woman, who was already suffering from cancer when she contracted the virus, raised the nation's death toll to three, said Lombardy regional official Giulio Gallera.

Authorities expressed frustration that they haven't been able to track down the source of the virus that is spreading in the north and which surfaced last week when an Italian man in his late 30s in Codogno became critically ill.

"The health officials haven't been yet able to pinpoint 'patient zero,'" Angelo Borrelli, head of the national

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Civil Protection agency, told reporters in Rome.

At first, it was widely presumed that the man was infected by an Italian friend he dined with and who had recently returned from his job, based in Shanghai. But when the friend tested negative for the virus attention turned to several Chinese residents who frequent the same cafe visited by the stricken man. But Lombardy Gov. Attilio Fontana told reporters they all tested negative too.

So for now, Borrelli indicated the strategy is to concentrate on closures and other restrictions to try to stem the spread in the country, which already had taken measures early on in the global virus alarm that included banning direct flights from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau. Italy has also tested millions of airport passengers arriving from other places for any signs of fever.

"Worry is understandable, panic, no," Premier Giuseppe Conte told a state TV talk show host, who informed him that four bottles of disinfectant hand gel, which normally sell for a few euros a piece, were being hawked for 200 euros on the internet. The interview was conducted by phone in a studio without an audience after authorities requested that the public not be allowed in for health concerns.

Gallera told reporters in Milan that schools, museums, discos, pubs and theaters would stay closed for at least seven days. But restaurants in Milan and other Lombardy cities outside the main cluster area can still operate since, unlike at concerts and other entertainment venues, in eateries "people are not congregated in one place and there is space between tables," Gallera said.

Lombardy's ban on public events also extended to Masses in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation. Venice also was forbidding public Masses, while in Milan, the city's iconic Gothic cathedral was closed to visitors. School trips inside Italy and overseas were banned.

But in the south, thousands turned out for a visit by Pope Francis in the port city of Bari. The pontiff shook hands with many of the faithful.

In Lombardy, a populous region which includes the country's financial capital, Milan, nearly all the cases of COVID-19 were in the countryside, mainly in Codogno and nine neighboring towns. In those towns, only grocery stores and pharmacies were permitted to open, and people weren't supposed to enter or leave the towns.

Melissa Catanacci, who lives on one of Codogno's main roads, said in the morning, she ventured outside for a stroll along with her husband and two children, ages 10 and 13.

"Every quarter-hour or so a car goes by" on the main road, Catanacci said, speaking by telephone. With businesses closed, the usual Sunday "passeggiata" — a leisurely stroll through local streets — didn't last very long, she said.

With school to stay shut through the week, her children were visiting their friends' houses or inviting them over to hers to break the boredom, she said.

Sporting events were canceled, from children's team practices to Serie A soccer matches which were to be played in northern stadiums. Those measures were ordered Saturday night by the Italian government.

Dispensers of hand disinfectant were being installed in trains run by the state railways, which also said it was supplying its crews with masks and disposable gloves.

Britain's number of confirmed cases rose to 13, with the positive test results of four Britons who had been aboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship, which had been moored for days at a Japanese port when the ship was quarantined.

In Austria, security official Franz Lang said the country was considering activating border controls to Italy. Both nations are part of the European Union's visa- and passport-free zone, but under certain circumstances individual countries can reactivate controls. Lang said the situation would be discussed in meetings Monday, local Austrian media reported.

In Switzerland, which like Austria borders Italy, there was a call for calm.

"The news from Italy is worrisome ... but it is too early to think that a wave is rolling our way," Daniel Koch, the head of the department for contagious diseases at the health office, told the SRF public broadcaster

The German health ministry said it had initiated a phone conference for all European Union public health authorities about the outbreak in northern Italy on Monday.

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French Health Minister Olivier Veran said that authorities were getting ready for a possible outbreak in France of the new virus. In an interview published Sunday in French newspaper Le Parisien he said he was monitoring closely the "very serious" situation, including in neighboring Italy.

Earlier this month, France reported the first death outside Asia of a person infected with the virus, an 80-year-old Chinese tourist.

Among those in quarantine in Italy were 274 migrants, rescued in the Mediterranean Sea by a charity ship from boats launched by Libya-based traffickers and allowed to disembark in Pozzallo, Sicily.

D'Emilio reported from Rome. Associated Press writers Sylvie Corbet in Paris, Kirsten Grieshaber in Berlin, and Jill Lawless in London, contributed to this report.

Reliability of pricey new voting machines questioned

By FRANK BAJAK AP Technology Writer

In the rush to replace insecure, unreliable electronic voting machines after Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential race, state and local officials have scrambled to acquire more trustworthy equipment for this year's election, when U.S. intelligence agencies fear even worse problems.

But instead of choosing simple, hand-marked paper ballots that are most resistant to tampering because paper cannot be hacked, many are opting for pricier technology that computer security experts consider almost as risky as earlier discredited electronic systems.

Called ballot-marking devices, the machines have touchscreens for registering voter choice. Unlike touchscreen-only machines, they print out paper records that are scanned by optical readers. South Carolina voters will use them in Saturday's primary.

The most pricey solution available, they are at least twice as expensive as the hand-marked paper ballot option. They have been vigorously promoted by the three voting equipment vendors that control 88 percent of the U.S. market.

Some of the most popular ballot-marking machines, made by industry leaders Election Systems & Software and Dominion Voting Systems, register votes in bar codes that the human eye cannot decipher. That's a problem, researchers say: Voters could end up with printouts that accurately spell out the names of the candidates they picked, but, because of a hack, the bar codes do not reflect those choices. Because the bar codes are what's tabulated, voters would never know that their ballots benefited another candidate.

Even on machines that do not use bar codes, voters may not notice if a hack or programming error mangled their choices. A University of Michigan study determined that only 7 percent of participants in a mock election notified poll workers when the names on their printed receipts did not match the candidates they voted for.

ES&S rejects those scenarios. Spokeswoman Katina Granger said the company's ballot-marking machines' accuracy and security "have been proven through thousands of hours of testing and tens of thousands of successful elections." Dominion declined to comment for this story.

Nearly 1 in 5 U.S. voters will be using ballot-marking machines this year, compared with less than 2% in 2018, according to Verified Voting, which tracks voting technology.

Pivotal counties in the crucial states of Pennsylvania, Ohio and North Carolina have bought ballot-marking machines. So have counties in much of Texas, as well as California's Los Angeles County and all of Georgia, Delaware and South Carolina. The machines' certification has often been streamlined in the rush to get machines in place for presidential primaries.

Ballot-marking devices were not conceived as primary vote-casting tools but as accessible options for people with disabilities.

Critics see them as vulnerable to hacking. At last year's DefCon hacker convention in Las Vegas, it took tinkerers at the 'Voting Village' not even eight hours to hack two older ballot-marking devices.

Tampering aside, some of the newer ballot-marking machines have stumbled badly in actual votes. That happened most spectacularly in November when ES&S's top-of-the-line ExpressVote XL debuted in

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a Pennsylvania county.

Even without technical troubles, the new machines can lead to longer lines, potentially reducing turnout. Voters need more time to cast ballots and the machine's high costs have prompted election officials to limit how many they purchase.

"There are a huge number of reasons to reject today's ballot-marking devices — except for limited use as assistive devices for those unable to mark a paper ballot themselves," says Doug Jones, a University of Iowa computer scientist who co-authored the voting technology history "Broken Ballots."

But election officials see ballot-marking devices as improvements over paperless touchscreens, which were used by 27 percent of voters in 2018. They like them because the touchscreens are familiar to voters, looking and feeling like what they have been using for nearly two decades, and officials can use one voting method for everyone.

Michael Anderson, elections director for Pennsylvania's Lebanon County, said "voters want it." The county offers voters both machine- and hand-marked ballots.

"When we give them a paper ballot, the very first thing they say to us is, 'We're going back in time,'" he said.

New York State election commission co-chair Douglas Kellner was an early critic of paperless electronic voting machines. But he is confident in a ballot-marking device, the ImageCast Evolution by Dominion, certified for use in his state. He said safeguards built into the machines and security protocols make a hack of the Image Evolution "extraordinarily unlikely."

But Jones is among experts who think today's ballot-marking devices undermine the very idea of retaining a paper record that can be used in audits and recounts. It's an idea supported by a 2018 National Academies of Sciences report that favors hand-marked paper ballots tallied by optical scanners. Some 70 percent of U.S. voters used them in the past two presidential elections and will do so again in November.

One state, Colorado, is banning bar codes from ballot-marking voting machines beginning in 2021.

Election administrators who reject hand-marked paper ballots as antiquated, inconvenient or unwieldy have few options beyond ballot-marking devices. That's because the \$300 million voting equipment and services industry is so insular and entrenched.

The industry faces virtually no federal regulation even though election technology was designated critical infrastructure in January 2017. Federal certification guidelines for voting machine design are 15 years old and voluntary. The leading vendors have resisted publicly disclosing third-party penetration testing of their systems.

"It's a self-reinforcing system that keeps it frozen in a place in the past," said Eddie Perez, a former product development director for Hart InterCivic, the No. 3 voting equipment company, now with the OSET Institute, a nonprofit that promotes reliable voting solutions. "They don't want to make any changes in the equipment unless they absolutely have to."

The Republican-controlled Senate has refused to take up bills that would, among other things, require a voter-verifiable paper trail and require bulletproof postelection audits. Republicans say the federal government should not impinge on states' authority to oversee elections.

Northampton County, on Pennsylvania's eastern edge, mirrored the state's choice in 2016 by voting for Donald Trump after twice choosing Barack Obama. Last Election Day, it became ground zero in the debate over ballot-marking devices.

The county's new ExpressVote XLs failed doubly.

First, a programming misconfiguration prevented votes cast for one of three candidates in a judge's race from registering in the bar codes used to count the vote. Only absentee ballot votes registered for the candidate, said the county executive, Lamont McClure. The other problem was miscalibrated touchscreens, which can "flip" votes or simply make it difficult to vote for one's desired candidate due to faulty screen alignment. They were on about one-third of the county's 320 machines, which cost taxpayers \$8,250 each.

One poll judge called the touch screens "garbage." Some voters, in emails obtained by the AP in a public records request, said their votes were assigned to the wrong candidates. Others worried about

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long lines in future elections.

Voters require triple the time on average to navigate ES&S ballot-marking machines compared to filling out hand-marked ballots and running them through scanners, according to state certification documents.

ES&S said its employees had flubbed the programming and failed to perform adequate preelection testing of the machines or adequately train election workers, which would have caught the errors.

Election commissioners were livid, but unable to return the machines for a refund because they are appointees.

"I feel like I've been played," commissioner Maudeania Hornik said at a December meeting with ES&S representatives. She later told the AP she had voted for the devices believing they would be more convenient than hand-marked paper ballots, especially for seniors.

"What we worry is, what happens the next time if there's a programming bug — or a hack or whatever — and it's done in a way that's not obvious?" said Daniel Lopresti, a commissioner and Lehigh University computer scientist.

ES&S election equipment has failed elsewhere. Flawed software in ballot-marking devices delayed the vote count by 13 hours in Kansas' largest county during the August 2018 gubernatorial primary. Another Johnson County, this one in Indiana, scrapped the company's computerized voter check-in system after Election Day errors that same year caused long lines.

"I don't know that we've ever seen an election computer — a voting computer — whose software was done to a high standard," said Duncan Buell, a University of South Carolina computer scientist who has found errors in results produced by ES&S electronic voting machines.

Voting integrity activists have sued, seeking to prevent the further use in Pennsylvania of the ExpressVote XL. Grassroots organizations including Common Cause are fighting to prevent their certification in New York State.

ES&S defends the machine. In a Dec. 12 filing in a Pennsylvania lawsuit, company executive Dean Baumer said the ExpressVote XL had never been compromised and said breaches of the machine "are a practical impossibility."

ES&S lobbied hard in Pennsylvania for the ExpressVote XL, though not always legally.

After ES&S won a \$29 million contract in Philadelphia last year in a hasty procurement, that city's controller did some digging. She determined that ES&S' vice president of finance had failed to disclose, in a mandatory campaign contribution form, activities of consultants who spent more than \$400,000, including making campaign contributions to two commissioners involved in awarding the contract. ES&S agreed to pay a record \$2.9 million penalty as a result. It said the executive's failure to disclose was "inadvertent."

The Philadelphia episode contradicts claims by ES&S officials, including by CEO Tom Burt in Jan. 8 testimony to a congressional committee, that the company does not make campaign contributions.

Public records show ES&S contributed \$25,000 from 2014-2016 to the Republican State Leadership Committee which seeks GOP control of state legislatures.

ES&S has also paid for trips to Las Vegas of an "advisory board" of top elections officials, including from South Carolina, New York City and Dallas County, Texas, according to records shared with the AP from a Freedom of Information request.

Philadelphia paid more than twice as much for its ExpressVote XL machines per voter (\$27) as what Allegheny County, home to Pittsburgh, disbursed (\$12) for hand-marked paper ballots and scanners — plus ballot-markers for the disabled — from the same vendor.

Allegheny County's elections board rejected ballot-marking devices as too risky for all but disabled voters. Its vice chair, state judge Kathryn Hens-Greco, regretted during a September hearing having to award ES&S the county's business at all given its behavior in Philadelphia and elsewhere.

But no other vendor offered a hand-marked option with enough ballot-configuration flexibility for the county's 130 municipalities.

While cybersecurity risks can't be eliminated, Hens-Greco said, the county would at least have "the ability to recover" from any mischief: a paper trail of hand-marked ballots.

South Korea put on high alert, Italy battles virus outbreak

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's president said Sunday that he was putting his country on its highest alert for infectious diseases, ordering officials to take "unprecedented, powerful" steps to fight a soaring viral outbreak, while a continent away in Italy, authorities battled to contain Europe's first major outbreak of the virus.

China also reported hundreds more infections for a total of about 77,000, and Iran raised its death toll from the virus to eight — the highest toll outside of China. While the number of patients worldwide is increasing, some virus clusters have shown no link to China and experts are struggling to trace where those clusters started.

The Iranian health ministry said there were now 43 confirmed cases in Iran, which did not report its first case of the virus until Wednesday.

In Italy's northern Lombardy region, which includes the nation's financial capital, Milan, the governor announced Sunday that the number of confirmed cases stood at 110. Italy now has 152 cases, the largest number outside of Asia, including three deaths, the most recent on Sunday.

Venice, which is full of tourists for Carnival events, reported its first two cases, said Veneto Gov. Luca Zaia, whose region includes the lagoon city. It wasn't immediately known if the two infected had participated in Carnival festivities.

As Italy scrambled to check the spread of the virus, authorities announced that all Carnival events had been called off as well as major league soccer matches in the stricken region. Cinemas and theaters were also ordered shuttered, including Milan's legendary La Scala.

Warning that China's virus epidemic is "still grim and complex," President Xi Jinping called for more efforts to stop the outbreak, revive industry and prevent the disease from disrupting spring planting of crops.

Xi defended the ruling Communist Party's response as "timely and effective" in a video conference with officials in charge of anti-disease work, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

"The current epidemic situation is still grim and complex," Xinhua cited Xi as saying. "Prevention and control are at the most critical stage."

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said his government had increased its anti-virus alert level by one notch to "Red," the highest level, in response to the spread of the disease that has infected more than 600 people in the country, mostly in the last few days. The step was last taken in 2009 to guard against a novel influenza outbreak that killed more than 260 people in South Korea. Under the highest alert level, authorities can order the temporary closure of schools and reduce the operation of public transportation and flights to and from South Korea.

Moon's education minister, Yoo Eun-hae, said later Sunday that the new school year for kindergartens, elementary, middle and high schools in South Korea has been put off by one week and will start on March 9.

Moon said the outbreak "has reached a crucial watershed," and that the next few days will be critical. "We shouldn't be bound by regulations and hesitate to take unprecedented, powerful measures," he said.

South Korea announced 169 more cases of the new virus, bringing the country's total to 602. It also reported three more fatalities, raising its death toll to six.

Mainland China reported 648 new infections for a total of 76,936. The daily death toll fell slightly to 97. In all, 2,442 people have died in the country from COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

The number of new Chinese cases has seesawed daily but has remained under 1,000 for the past four days. Several changes to how infections are counted, however, have made it difficult to draw conclusions from the figures.

The central Chinese city of Wuhan and other parts of Hubei province, where the outbreak first emerged in December, remain under lockdown. More than 80% of the country's cases are in Hubei, where the death toll has also been higher than the rest of the nation.

Most of the South Korean cases have been reported in the country's fourth-largest city, Daegu, and the surrounding area. According to the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, some 320 cases

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have also been confirmed to have links to a branch of the local Shincheonji church in Daegu, which has become the biggest cluster of viral infections in South Korea.

Shincheonji, which has been viewed as a cult movement by mainstream Christian organizations, tried to defend itself from growing public anger directed at the church.

In a video statement posted on its website, church spokesman Simon Kim said Shincheonji has shut down all its 1,100 local churches and other facilities since one of its church members tested positive for the virus on Feb. 18, the first patient in Daegu.

Earlier Sunday, Daegu Mayor Kwon Yong-jin said there were concerns that the number of those infected in the city could see yet another massive increase because authorities were launching intensive examinations of church members with virus-related symptoms.

Meanwhile, a cruise ship passenger who had been hospitalized after testing positive for the new virus died on Sunday, the third fatality from the Diamond Princess, Japan's health ministry said.

The ministry also announced 57 more cases of infections from the ship, including 55 crew members still on board and two passengers who had infected roommates and are in a prolonged quarantine at a government facility.

With the new cases, 691 people have been infected on the ship, or nearly one-fifth of its 3,711 passengers and crew. Japan has confirmed a total of 838 cases and four deaths from the virus, including those on the ship.

Meanwhile, a diplomatic row erupted after Israel turned back a South Korean airliner, underscoring fear and tensions over the fast-spreading outbreak.

A Korean Air flight with 188 passengers that landed at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport Saturday evening was taxied away from the terminal while authorities allowed only 11 Israelis to enter the country. The plane returned to South Korea with the rest of the passengers on Sunday, according to airline officials.

Seoul's Foreign Ministry said Sunday that it was closely monitoring the incident and providing active consular assistance to South Koreans staying in Israel. It said it will evacuate South Korean tourists from Israel if necessary.

Yonhap news agency cited South Korea's Foreign Ministry as registering a strong protest with the Israeli government.

South Korea earlier informed Israel that a group of tourists who traveled to Israel and the West Bank for a week this month tested positive for the virus upon returning home. Israeli and Palestinian health authorities asked people who were in close contact with the tourists to quarantine themselves.

South Korean health authorities said Sunday that 18 of the 39 South Koreans who had made the group pilgrimage later tested positive for the virus. She said the 21 others were being tested. Forty-one Catholic churches in their neighborhoods halted Sunday Masses and other gatherings.

Israel's Foreign Ministry issued travel warnings to South Korea and Japan due to the coronavirus, and the Health Ministry ordered Israelis returning from those countries to remain in home quarantine, as previously ordered for those returning from Hong Kong, China, Macau, Thailand and Singapore.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will be adding more restrictions on entry to Israel from additional countries, including Australia and Italy.

Jordan said it was denying entry of non-Jordanians coming from Iran and South Korea, on top of a previous ban on those coming from China. Nationals arriving from those countries will be quarantined.

Downtown Daegu was mostly deserted Sunday, with shelves at some supermarkets and stores empty. Many restaurants, bars, real-estate offices and tour agencies shut down as traffic nosedived and people stayed home, ordering food and supplies online.

Kim Mi-yeon, who opened her cake shop in Daegu on Sunday despite worries about infection, said she received only one group of customers.

"I'm also worried about being infected, but I still opened my shop today to make a living," she said by phone. "On weekends, I used to hire five part-time employees, but I've recently told all of them not to come. How can I hire them at a time when I have fewer than 10 customers a day?"

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Associated Press journalists Yanan Wang and Henry Hou in Beijing, Frances D'Emilio in Rome, Ilan Ben Zion in Jerusalem, Fares Akram in Amman, Jordan, and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Buttigieg questions 3rd place finish in Nevada, cites errors

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Pete Buttigieg's campaign has questioned his third-place finish in Nevada's caucuses and called for the state's Democratic party to release a more detailed breakdown of votes and address reports of more than 200 problems allocating votes in Saturday's caucuses.

But the Nevada State Democratic Party is suggesting that Buttigieg's campaign seek a recount if it wants to challenge results.

In a letter sent to the state party late Saturday night and provided to The Associated Press on Sunday, the Buttigieg campaign said the process of integrating four days of early voting into in-person caucuses held Saturday was "plagued with errors and inconsistencies."

The campaign also said it received reports that volunteers running caucuses did not appear to follow rules that could have allowed candidates to pick up more support on a second round of voting.

Bernie Sanders won Nevada's caucuses, with Joe Biden a distant second and Buttigieg in third.

"Currently our data shows that this is a razor-thin margin for second place in Nevada, and due to irregularities and a number of unresolved questions we have raised with the Nevada Democratic Party, it's unclear what the final results will be," Buttigieg's deputy campaign manager Hari Sevugan said in a statement.

Nearly 75,000 people cast votes during four days of early caucus voting — almost as many Democrats who participated in Nevada's 2016 caucuses. Their votes, cast at sites anywhere in the county, had to be routed by the party back to the voter's home precinct and added to the in-person votes cast Saturday by their neighbors.

Buttigieg's campaign said it received more than 200 reports of problems merging the early votes, including cases where the early votes weren't used, were incorrectly read or the wrong early vote data matching another precinct was used to calculate whether a candidate had enough support.

The claim matches a Biden campaign precinct captain who told The Associated Press he witnessed two precincts on Saturday where caucus organizers announced midway through that they had switched the vote numbers for the precincts, before switching them back and forth at least four times.

The Buttigieg campaign called for the party to release more detail of the votes, including a breakdown of early votes cast by home precincts.

Nevada Democratic Party spokeswoman Molly Forgey said the party is continuing to verify and report results and is not going to offer a more detailed breakdown than it already planned to provide.

"As laid out in our recount guidance, there is a formal method for requesting a challenge of results," Forgey said.

The party's rules say any request for a recount must be filed by 5 p.m. Monday.

The Buttigieg campaign did not immediately have a comment on whether it intended to seek a recount.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Feb. 24, the 55th day of 2020. There are 311 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 24, 1989, a state funeral was held in Japan for Emperor Hirohito, who had died the month before at age 87.

On this date:

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII issued an edict outlining his calendar reforms. (The Gregorian Calendar is

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the calendar in general use today.)

In 1761, Boston lawyer James Otis Jr. went to court to argue against "writs of assistance" that allowed British customs officers to arbitrarily search people's premises, declaring: "A man's house is his castle." (Although Otis lost the case, his statement provided early inspiration for American independence.)

In 1803, in its *Marbury v. Madison* decision, the Supreme Court established judicial review of the constitutionality of statutes.

In 1864, the first Union prisoners arrived at the Confederates' Andersonville prison camp in Georgia.

In 1868, the U.S. House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson by a vote of 126-47 following his attempted dismissal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; Johnson was later acquitted by the Senate.

In 1942, the SS *Struma*, a charter ship attempting to carry nearly 800 Jewish refugees from Romania to British-mandated Palestine, was torpedoed by a Soviet submarine in the Black Sea; all but one of the refugees perished.

In 1961, the Federal Communications Commission authorized the nation's first full-scale trial of pay television in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1981, a jury in White Plains, New York, found Jean Harris guilty of second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of "Scarsdale Diet" author Dr. Herman Tarnower. (Sentenced to 15 years to life in prison, Harris was granted clemency by New York Gov. Mario Cuomo in December 1992.)

In 1988, in a ruling that expanded legal protections for parody and satire, the Supreme Court unanimously overturned a \$150,000 award that the Rev. Jerry Falwell had won against *Hustler* magazine and its publisher, Larry Flynt.

In 1994, entertainer Dinah Shore died in Beverly Hills, California, five days before turning 78.

In 1996, Cuba downed two small American planes operated by the group Brothers to the Rescue that it claimed were violating Cuban airspace; all four pilots were killed.

In 2008, Cuba's parliament named Raul Castro president, ending nearly 50 years of rule by his brother Fidel.

Ten years ago: Testifying before Congress, Toyota CEO Akio Toyoda apologized personally and repeatedly to the United States and millions of American Toyota owners for safety lapses that had led to deaths and widespread recalls. Trainer Dawn Brancheau was dragged to her death by a killer whale, Tilikum, at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, defying a Republican-led Congress, rejected a bill to approve construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline. The Justice Department announced that George Zimmerman, the former neighborhood watch volunteer who fatally shot Trayvon Martin in a 2012 confrontation, would not face federal charges. A Texas jury rejected the insanity defense of Eddie Ray Routh, convicting him of murdering famed "American Sniper" author Chris Kyle and Chad Littlefield. A Metrolink passenger train collided with a truck at a crossing in Oxnard, California, killing the engineer and injuring 29 other people. Alaska became the third U.S. state to legalize the recreational use of marijuana.

One year ago: The segregation-era road-trip drama "Green Book" was crowned best picture at the 91st Academy Awards; top acting honors went to Rami Malek for "Bohemian Rhapsody" and Olivia Colman for "The Favourite." Pope Francis closed a summit on preventing clergy abuse by vowing to confront abusers, end the cover-ups by their superiors and prioritize the victims; survivors of abuse by priests were disappointed by his failure to offer a concrete action plan.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Dominic Chianese (kee-uh-NAY'-see) is 89. Opera singer-director Renata Scotto is 86. Singer Joanie Sommers is 79. Actress Jenny O'Hara is 78. Former Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., is 78. Actor Barry Bostwick is 75. Actor Edward James Olmos is 73. Singer-writer-producer Rupert Holmes is 73. Rock singer-musician George Thorogood is 70. Actress Debra Jo Rupp is 69. Actress Helen Shaver is 69. News anchor Paula Zahn is 64. Baseball Hall of Famer Eddie Murray is 64. Country singer Sammy Kershaw is 62. Actor Mark Moses is 62. Actress Beth Broderick is 61. Actor Emilio Rivera is 59. Singer Michelle Shocked is 58. Movie director Todd Field is 56. Actor Billy Zane is 54. Actress Bonnie Somerville is 46. Jazz musician Jimmy Greene is 45. Former boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. is 43. Rhythm-

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and-blues singer Brandon Brown (Mista) is 37. Rock musician Matt McGinley (Gym Class Heroes) is 37. Actor Wilson Bethel is 36. Actor Alexander Koch is 32. Actor Daniel Kaluuya (Film: "Get Out") is 31. Rapper-actor O'Shea Jackson Jr. is 29.

Thought for Today: "It is my feeling that Time ripens all things; with Time all things are revealed; Time is the father of truth." — Francois Rabelais, 16th century French writer and physician.

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