

# Groton Daily Independent

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It's Boys' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Milbank  
Bulldogs**

VS



**Groton Area Tigers**

Region 1A

7 p.m., Friday, March 6  
Groton Area Arena

"TRUST THAT IN LIVING TRUE TO YOURSELF,  
YOU WILL ATTRACT PEOPLE THAT SUPPORT  
AND LOVE YOU, JUST AS YOU ARE."

-JAEDA DEWALT-



## Upcoming Events

### Friday, March 6, 2020

Region 1A Boys Basketball, Milbank at Groton Area, 7 p.m.  
State Debate at Huron

### Saturday, March 7

State Debate at Huron  
Regional DI Competition at Groton Area

### Sunday, March 8, 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

### Monday, March 9, 2020

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Girls SoDak 16

## **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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## Groton City March 3 Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2020

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at the Community Center for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Wells, Blackmun, Cutler, Babcock via telephone and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Finance Officer Hope Block, Kathy Sundermeyer, Terry Herron, Dan Sunne, Bev Sombke, Dwight Zerr, and Brenda Waage.

Attorney Drew Johnson entered the meeting at 7:03pm.

Sombke, president of the Garden Club, informed the group about the club's plan to install irrigation at the City Park for the flowers. Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Wells to accept the irrigation system as a donation to the City. All members voted aye. Sombke and Waage left the meeting at 7:13pm.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Cutler. All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Wells to authorize the following bills for payment. All members voted aye.

Payroll	\$20,614.10	Employee salaries
Executive	\$577.19	
Administrative	\$3,147.71	
Public Safety	\$7,732.54	
Public Works	\$8,416.88	
Culture & Recreation	\$739.78	
First State Bank	\$6,859.44	SS and WH
First State Bank	\$466.66	HSA contributions
Dakotaland FCU	\$1,050.00	Employee savings
SD State Treasurer	\$10,339.26	Sales tax 1/20
April Abeln	\$61.73	Dep flex
Hauge Associates	\$360.00	Payroll garnishment
Aflac	\$397.72	Employee insurance
Hope Block	\$584.20	Med flex
Colonial Life	\$340.78	Employee insurance
Employers Mutual Insurance	\$85.20	Employee insurance
Guardian Insurance	\$140.52	Employee insurance
JGE	\$344.37	Cutting edge, seat belt
SD Retirement	\$8,075.26	Employee retirement
T&R Electric	\$592.50	Pole mounts
Crawford Trucks & Equipment	\$154.47	Digger truck lifts and absorber
Drew Johnson	\$1,450.00	Legal fees 2/20
Ameripride	\$47.14	Rug rent
S&S Lumber	\$78.06	Salt, gloves, paint, batteries
Merchant Job Training & Safety	\$650.00	Book 2 tuition LJ
Galls	\$112.59	Boots
NW Energy	\$11.56	Natural gas
SD Dept of Health	\$30.00	Water testing
Dakota Pump & Control	\$408.16	New impellers at Olson lift
	\$2,107.83	Impellers
Associated Supply Company	\$3,018.50	Pool chlorination system
SD Supplemental Retirement	\$285.00	Employee retirement
Dakota Press	\$841.34	Publishing 9/19-2/20

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Herron gave some updates on the new water tower project and left the meeting at 7:22pm.

Zerr reported replacing some impellers, and that sump pumps need to be drained outside as soon as possible. He left the meeting at 7:24pm.

Sunne reported servicing trucks and trimming trees. He left the meeting at 7:28pm.

An update was provided on some unexpected water meter system and swimming pool expenses.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Cutler to donate two baseball season tickets to the BB/SB Foundation for their annual fundraising event. All members voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Babcock to add the paid holidays of April 10th and 13th to follow the Easter declaration by Governor Noem. All members voted aye.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Blackmun to allow April Abeln and Drew Johnson to attend the Employment Law Seminar in Sioux Falls. All members voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Babcock to approve the contract from A&B Business for printers in City Hall. All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Wells to set the Equalization meeting date for March 17th at 7:30pm at the Community Center. All members voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Cutler to approve the second reading of the revised Summer Salary Ordinance #733. All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Wells to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:49pm. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:05pm.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Wells to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm. All members voted aye.

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Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Hope Block, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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## Ordinance No. 733 - Summer Salary Ordinance

An Ordinance entitled "Summer Salary Ordinance", An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 725. BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Groton, South Dakota, that Ordinance No. 725 be amended to read as follows:

Section I: Schedule of Salaries. The salaries and time of payment of employees shall be as follows:

Swimming Pool Manager	\$13.25	Hourly	Biweekly
Swimming Pool Lifeguard-First Year	\$9.30	Hourly	Biweekly
Swimming Pool Lifeguard-Second Year	\$9.55	Hourly	Biweekly
Swimming Pool Lifeguard-Third Year	\$9.80	Hourly	Biweekly
Swimming Pool Lifeguard-Fourth Year	\$10.05	Hourly	Biweekly
Swimming Pool Lifeguard-Five plus Years	\$10.30	Hourly	Biweekly
WSI Lifeguards during Swimming LessonsRegular Salary Plus \$1.00		Hourly	Biweekly
WSI Assist Lifeguard during Swimming LessonsRegular Salary Plus \$.50		Hourly	Biweekly
Concessions Manager	\$50.00	Daily	Biweekly
	Plus 50%	Net Profit	End of Season
Baseball Coordinator	\$3,000.00	Yearly	Monthly
Softball Coordinator	\$1,000.00	Yearly	Monthly
Legion Baseball Coach	\$3,500.00	Yearly	Monthly
Assistant Legion Baseball Coach	\$2,000.00	Yearly	Monthly
Jr Legion Baseball Coach	\$2,000.00	Yearly	Monthly
Jr Teeners Baseball Coach	\$1,500.00	Yearly	Monthly
Midget Coach	\$1,250.00	Yearly	Monthly
Pee Wee Coach	\$1,250.00	Yearly	Monthly
Girls Softball Coach	\$800.00	Yearly	Monthly
	(per team)		
Baseball Grounds Keeper-First Year	\$9.30	Hourly	Biweekly
Baseball Grounds Keeper-Second Year	\$9.55	Hourly	Biweekly
Baseball Grounds Keeper-Third Year	\$9.80	Hourly	Biweekly
Baseball Grounds Keeper-Fourth Year	\$10.05	Hourly	Biweekly
Baseball Grounds Keeper-Five plus Years	\$10.30	Hourly	Biweekly
Baseball Gatekeeper	\$9.30	Hourly	Biweekly
Public Works Laborer-First Year	\$10.25	Hourly	Biweekly
Public Works Laborer-Second Year	\$10.50	Hourly	Biweekly
Public Works Laborer-Third Year	\$10.75	Hourly	Biweekly
Public Works Laborer-Fourth Year	\$11.00	Hourly	Biweekly
Public Works Laborer-Five plus Years	\$11.25	Hourly	Biweekly
Cemetery Caretaker	\$13.25	Hourly	Biweekly

Section II: Requirements. Final payment of wages will be paid after completion of all duties of all seasonal employees.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Hanlon, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hope Block, Finance Officer

Passed First Reading: February 18, 2020

Passed Second Reading: March 3, 2020

Published: March 11, 2020

Effective: March 31, 2020

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**GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6**  
**School Board Meeting**  
**March 9, 2020 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room**

**AGENDA:**

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Approval of minutes of February 10, 2020 school board meeting and February 19, 2020 special school board meeting as drafted.
2. Approval of February District bills for payment
3. Approval of February 2020 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
4. Approval of February 2020 Transportation Report.
5. Approval of February 2020 School Lunch Report.

**OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

1. Open Forum for Public Participation in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Review and adopt 2020-2021 school calendar.
3. Discussion/possible action on 2019-2020 school calendar amendments related to make-up days.
4. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager's Report

**NEW BUSINESS:**

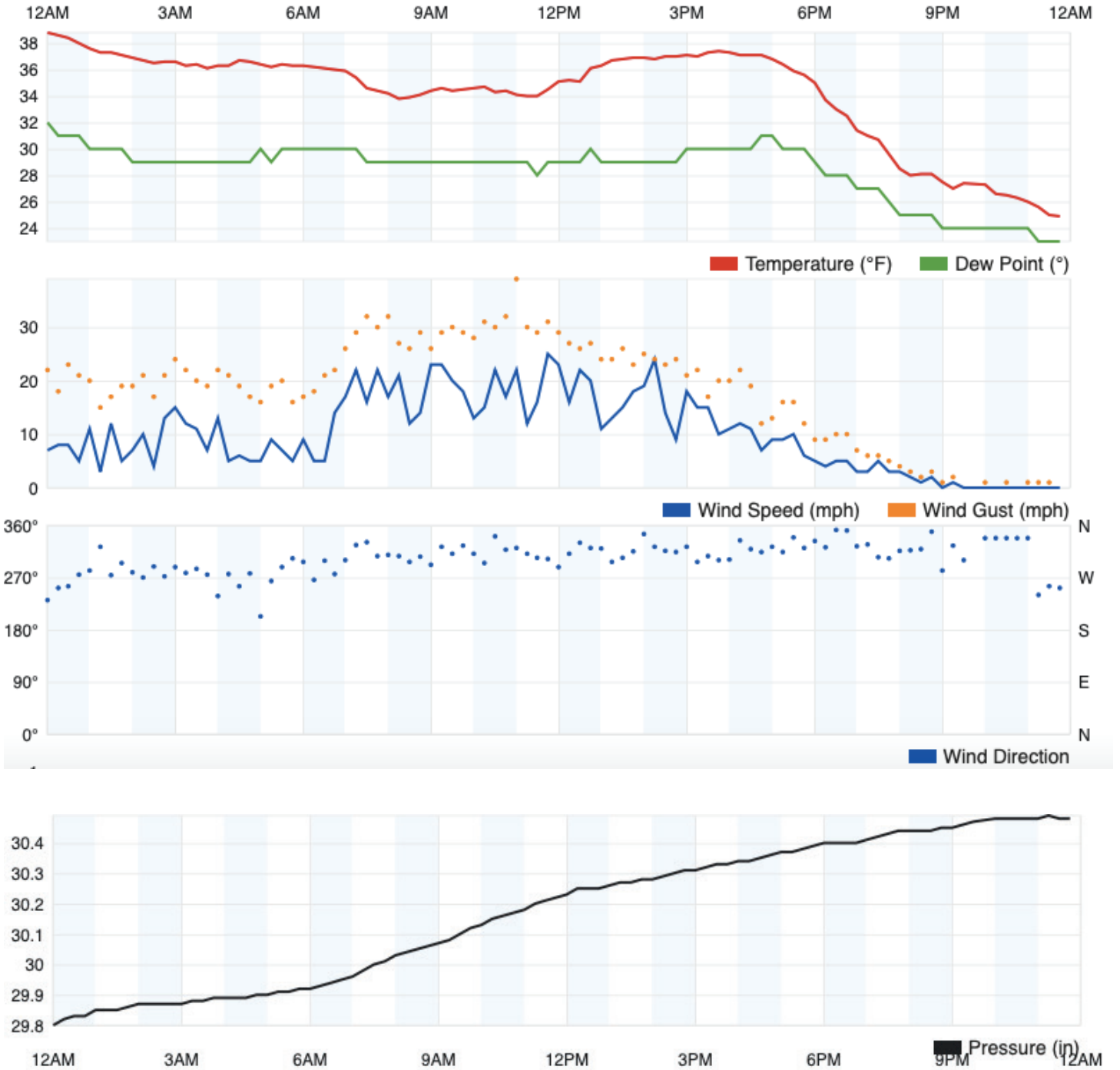
1. Approve resignation/retirement of Darlyne Johnson upon completion of 2019-2020 contract.
2. Consider request from Mike Nehls, Head Custodian, to campaign for office of County Commissioner.
3. Review and award bid for school bus.
4. Review and award bid for mower tractor.
5. Discussion and possible action on District property liability insurance and worker's compensation insurance.
6. Review SD Department of Health Food Service Inspections from February 25, 2020.
7. Approve lane change for Carrie Weisenburger from MS to MS+15.
8. Approve 2020-2021 signed administrative contracts.
9. Executive session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel issue (Superintendent Evaluation) and SDCL 1-25-2(4) for negotiations.

**ADJOURN**

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
				
Areas Dense Fog then Sunny and Breezy	Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
<b>High: 42 °F</b>	<b>Low: 32 °F</b>	<b>High: 48 °F</b>	<b>Low: 35 °F</b>	<b>High: 44 °F</b>

## Warming to start the Weekend

**Friday:** Highs in the 40s. Except in the 50s to low 60s along and west of the Missouri River.

**Saturday:** Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s. Except in the 60s to near 70 degrees along and west of the Missouri River.

Reminder:  
Turn Clocks Ahead  
at 2am Sunday!



**Saturday → Warmest of the Year so far!!!**

 National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

[weather.gov/abr](http://weather.gov/abr)

Graphic Created 3/6/2020 5:45 AM

Warming start to the Weekend! Across most of the area, Saturday will be the warmest day of the year so far.

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## Today in Weather History

March 6, 1987: Twenty-eight cities in the north-central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Pickstown, South Dakota, was the hot spot in the nation with a reading of 83 degrees. The high of 71 at Saint Cloud, Minnesota, smashed their previous record by 21 degrees.

March 6, 2000: A grass fire of unknown origin was exacerbated by dry conditions and strong winds, burning 1500 acres of grassland northwest and north of Brandon in Minnehaha County. The fire threatened several homes, but no homes were damaged, although farmland and some equipment burned. In a separate event the same day, a controlled burn went out of control, exacerbated by the conditions and strong winds. The fire caused one fatality and one injury. The damage was confined to grassland.

1962: The strongest nor'easter of this century struck the Mid-Atlantic Region on March 5-9, 1962. It is known as the "Ash Wednesday Storm" and caused over \$200 million (1962 dollars) in property damage and major coastal erosion from North Carolina to Long Island, New York. In New Jersey alone, it was estimated to have destroyed or greatly damaged 45,000 homes. The Red Cross recorded that the storm killed 40 people. It hit during "Spring Tide." When the sun and moon are in phase, they produce a higher than average astronomical tide. Water reached nine feet at Norfolk (flooding begins around five feet). Houses were toppled into the ocean, and boardwalks were broken and twisted. The islands of Chincoteague and Assateague, Maryland, were completely underwater. Ocean City, Maryland, sustained significant damage mainly to the south end of the island. Winds up to 70 mph built 40-foot waves at sea. Heavy snow fell in the Appalachian Mountains. Big Meadows, southeast of Luray, recorded Virginia's greatest 24-hour snowfall with 33 inches and the most significant single storm snowfall with 42 inches. (Luray, Virginia reported 33.5 inches on March 2-3, 1994, making this later snow their maximum 24-hour snowfall total.) Roads were blocked, and electrical service was out for several days. Washington and Baltimore fell into the mixed precipitation zone. The Ash Wednesday storm is noteworthy for producing devastating tidal flooding along the Atlantic Coast as well as record snows and the interior of a Virginia. The extremely high tides and massive waves caused tremendous damage -worst in many of the hurricanes that have hit the region. Along the Atlantic Coast tide ran for 2 to 6 ft above average with 20 to 40 ft waves crashing ashore. National Airport received only 4 inches of snow with a liquid equivalent of 1.33 inches. However, close-in suburbs, such as Silver Spring, Maryland and Falls Church, Virginia and received 11 inches of snow. Outlying areas such as Rockville, Maryland received 19 inches of snow, and Leesburg, Virginia, received 20 inches of snow. Other snow totals included 15 inches at Richmond; 23 inches at Culpeper; 26 inches at Charlottesville; 32 inches at Winchester; and 35 inches at Fort Royal, Virginia, and Big Meadows on the Skyline Drive top the list with 42 inches of snow. [Click HERE](#) for more information from the Washington Post.

2014: The Great Lakes saw some of their worst ice cover in nearly four decades because of a frigid winter with months of below-freezing temperatures in large sections of the northern United States, the National Ocean, and Atmospheric Administration said. As of March 6, 2014, 92.2 percent of the five lakes were under ice, breaking a record set in 1973 but still short of the 94.7 percent established in 1979, the federal agency said.



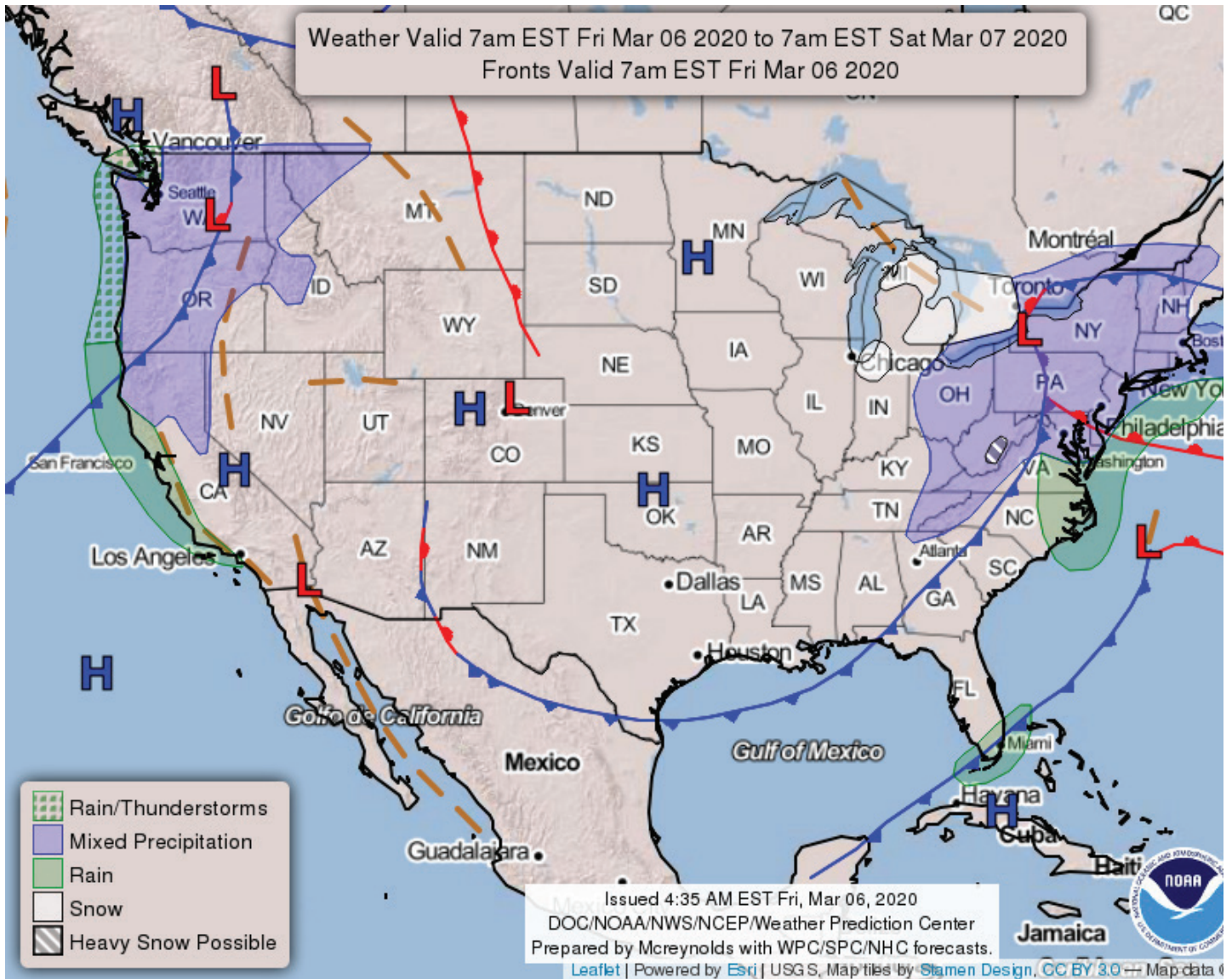
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 39 °F at 12:00 AM**  
**Low Temp: 25 °F at 11:53 PM**  
**Wind: 39 mph at 10:53 AM**  
**Snow**

**Record High:** 69° in 2000  
**Record Low:** -16° in 1899  
**Average High:** 35°F  
**Average Low:** 16°F  
**Average Precip in March.:** 0.14  
**Precip to date in March.:** 0.00  
**Average Precip to date:** 1.16  
**Precip Year to Date:** 0.35  
**Sunset Tonight:** 6:28 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:00 a.m.



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## HOW BUSY IS TOO BUSY?

Julia Ward Howe once asked a senator to help a wounded soldier who needed medical attention for a battle-related injury.

Came a quick reply, "I've become so busy with my responsibilities as a senator that I can't concern myself with any one individual's problem."

"That's remarkable," she replied. "Even God hasn't achieved that level of importance yet."

On one occasion Jesus was offering a word of encouragement to His disciples. They were going into unknown territory to do things they had never done before. Naturally, they were afraid. To calm their fears, expand their faith, and build their trust in God, He said, "Not one sparrow can fall to the ground without Your Father knowing it." God's concern includes everything and everyone, anything and anyone.

We often interpret the word "fall" as if the bird was "falling to the ground in death." But the word "fall" in this verse refers to a bird that has been soaring in flight, lands for a moment or two, then hops around in a field, and takes off again. Jesus was teaching His disciples that every time a small sparrow flies from one place to another, God is aware of each stop and every little "hop" that each bird takes in its journey.

Whenever we feel insignificant or unimportant, we need to remind ourselves that our God watches every hop of every little bird.

Prayer: Lord, our world is so huge that we often lose ourselves in its vastness. But, if You care for little sparrows, You must certainly care for us. Thanks! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Matthew 10:28-31 And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. 31 So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

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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)
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- All dates are subject to change, check for updates here

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## News from the Associated Press

### Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL=

Class A Region 1=

SoDak 16 Qualifier=

Aberdeen Roncalli 58, Webster 20

Redfield 49, Sisseton 45

Class A Region 2=

SoDak 16 Qualifier=

Flandreau 60, Florence/Henry 28

Hamlin 57, Clark/Willow Lake 23

Class A Region 3=

SoDak 16 Qualifier=

Tri-Valley 56, Garretson 49

West Central 57, Sioux Falls Christian 43

Class A Region 4=

SoDak 16 Qualifier=

Lennox 53, Vermillion 22

Tea Area 60, Dakota Valley 42

Class A Region 5=

SoDak 16 Qualifier=

McCook Central/Montrose 77, Madison 68

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 62, Parkston 56

Class A Region 6=

SoDak 16 Qualifier=

Crow Creek 65, Chamberlain 54

Miller 51, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 30

Class A Region 7=

SoDak 16 Qualifier=

Red Cloud 66, Pine Ridge 58

Winner 63, Todd County 40

Class A Region 8=

SoDak 16 Qualifier=

Hill City 61, Belle Fourche 54, OT

St. Thomas More 44, Lead-Deadwood 16

Class B SoDak 16=

State Qualifier=

Castlewood 58, New Underwood 21

Corsica/Stickney 76, Highmore-Harrold 37

DeSmet 51, White River 35

Ethan 64, Waverly-South Shore 31

Faith 55, Kimball/White Lake 36

Faulkton 56, Newell 47

Howard 38, Viborg-Hurley 34, OT

Irene-Wakonda 53, Langford 38

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

## Senators urge changes to reduce Missouri River flooding

By JOSH FUNK Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Republican senators from four states that have seen severe flooding from the Missouri River are backing legislation that would require the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to change its management of the river to reduce flooding risk.

The measure, which was introduced Thursday, follows criticism from residents of flooded areas that the Corps should give flood protection a higher priority than environmental, recreational and other needs.

The proposal would require the Corps to take steps to reduce flooding risks along the lower Missouri River by changing the way it manages the dams and strengthening levees along the river. The proposal is backed by all the senators from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.

"After the historic flooding we saw over last spring and in previous years, it is clear that we need to fundamentally change the way the Missouri River is managed," said Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo. "Farmers, families, and local officials I've talked to are rightly concerned with the lack of progress that has been made in repairing damaged infrastructure and putting stronger protections in place for the future."

Flooding caused more than \$3 billion in damage along the lower Missouri River last year as releases from dams upstream combined with heavy runoff from rain and melting snow to damage levees and inundate land along the river. Prolonged flooding also caused significant damage along the river in 2011.

"As evidenced by the recurring flooding in the lower basin, the current approach is not working. At the federal level, we need to work toward a long term solution to our region's flood control challenges," Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst said

The Missouri is the longest river in North America, running from Montana through the Dakotas and touching Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas before cutting across Missouri and entering the Mississippi River at St. Louis. The Corps manages the river's flow using six dams and reservoirs in Montana and the Dakotas.

Strengthening flood protections is popular in states that have endured flooding, but the idea may not be as popular with supporters of other approved uses of the river, such as recreation and protecting endangered species.

While the downstream states are pushing for more flood control efforts and having more water released from the reservoirs earlier in the year to prevent summer flooding, upstream states have been concerned about effects on wildlife and recreation especially during drought years.

Environmental groups that have pushed for greater protections for endangered species and habitat along the river might also oppose the push for more flood control.

Corps officials say flood protection remains their highest priority, but there are limits to what they can do to reduce flooding along the Missouri, especially along the lower river below the dams.

"We are aware people in the Missouri River Basin continue to be seriously impacted from flooding that occurred March through September 2019. We have worked hard to minimize damages caused. We're doing all we can to reduce the impacts of the historic floods," said Corps spokesman Mike Glasch.

The Corps said it is already working with Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri to develop a study of flooding risk management along the river, but that study hasn't been funded yet.

Robert Criss, a professor at Washington University in St. Louis who has been studying flooding for more than two decades, said the problem is that the Missouri has been made narrower over the years and the Corps has worked to maintain a defined channel for barge traffic even though few barges ever cross the river.

"The whole problem with flooding on the river is it has been narrowed too much for barge traffic," Criss said.

The Missouri used to be a wide waterway with wetlands and numerous channels running alongside each other. That allowed floodwaters to spread out and cause fewer problems. Criss said the modern river channel forces the floodwater into a narrow channel restricted by levees that speeds up the flow and

increases damage.

Criss said that asking the Corps to do more to try and control the river isn't the answer.

"Empowering the guys that caused the problem is how you make problems persist," Criss said.

## Legislature clears Gov. Kristi Noem's revamp of riot laws

By **STEPHEN GROVES** Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem's proposal to revive the state's criminal and civil punishments for riots passed a final Senate vote on Thursday and will next proceed to her desk.

The issue has drawn demonstrations, lawsuits and passionate testimony over the past year as the Republican-dominated Legislature sought to tighten the state's laws on riot and incitement to riot ahead of expected construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. Noem argued that the bill uses the "narrowest" definitions of rioting and inciting a riot and only goes after people who commit violence or cause damage. But opponents said the bill would have a "chilling effect" on peaceful protests and creates a false narrative that Native American people are violent.

The Legislature passed a similar law last year aimed at demonstrations against the pipeline. At the time, Noem argued that it was necessary to have civil penalties for people or groups that fund violent demonstrations, calling the action "riot boosting." But a federal judge last year found parts of that law, as well as several older laws on the books, to be unconstitutional.

Noem asked lawmakers to try again this year to update the state's criminal and civil penalties for rioting, arguing they are necessary to "protect people and property." Ahead of the Senate vote, she told reporters that the bill protects free speech and would be used against people who fund demonstrations "only if they're involved in those protests."

Sen. Lee Schoenbeck, a Watertown Republican, called the federal judge's ruling a "powerful statement about the First Amendment," but argued that it was necessary to pass the bill to put riot laws back on the books.

"If you want to peacefully protest, you should like this bill," he told lawmakers as he argued in support of the bill. He called people who caused damage during demonstrations against the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota "terrorists."

Democrats spoke against the bill, arguing that it has the same flaws as last year's law. This year's bill makes it a felony to "urge" force or violence against people or property, but they argued that is just as vague as the word used to describe inciting a riot in the old law — "encourage."

Sen. Red Dawn Foster, a Pine Ridge Democrat and member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, said the bill shapes a "narrative that we are inherently violent." Native American groups opposed to bill have emphasized they are only planning peaceful demonstrations and showed their intent by holding prayers before and after their demonstrations at the Capitol.

Foster said, "It's unfortunate that we are creating a law at the benefit of a foreign company at the expense of the people of South Dakota."

After the bill passed, the American Civil Liberties Union called for a "comprehensive plan that prevents the escalation of tension" between protesters and law enforcement.

Lawmakers also amended a separate bill on Thursday to stipulate that only the state, counties or towns could receive payments from the civil penalties and gets rid of the term "riot boosting." That bill has not yet passed.

## Spanish-language driving exams bill headed for final vote

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A proposal to give South Dakotans the option to take the written-portion of driver's license examinations in Spanish is headed to a final vote in the House after a committee approved it Thursday.

Proponents from the Latino community in South Dakota told lawmakers it would empower them to get

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to work, take their kids to school and participate in community events. A similar proposals died last year, but the measure this year appears to have broad support, including from business groups. It has already passed in the Senate.

Alex Ramirez, a member of the Hispanic Business Network in Sioux Falls, said South Dakota is one of three states that does not allow driver's license exams to be taken in Spanish. It has sent a message to Latinos that they are not welcome in the state, he said.

Sen. V.J. Smith, the Brookings Republican who introduced the bill, said he has had to overcome attitudes from constituents and some lawmakers that people should only speak English. He pointed out that there are German-speaking communities in the state.

The House Transportation committee passed the bill on an 8-3 vote.

Lawmakers opposed to the measure said drivers should be able to read road signs in English.

## Funding for pay raises in doubt as lawmakers finalize budget

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers remained split Thursday on whether they can afford inflationary pay increases for teachers, state employees and community service providers as the Legislature looks to finalize the state budget next week.

Republicans who control the Legislature are noncommittal on a 2% increase but say they would like to see some sort of pay raise. Democrats said their top priority this year is pushing GOP lawmakers to get the 2%, which would be about \$32 million. School districts often give pay raises to teachers regardless of the inflationary budget increases, but must carve out that money from other programs.

House Majority Leader Lee Qualm, a Republican from Platte, said that raising pay by 2% is impossible unless cuts are made to other budget items.

But Senate Assistant Majority Leader Jim Bolin, a Canton Republican, said he is hopeful they could find the money.

Democrats complained that Republicans have been too conservative in adopting revenue estimates, leading to a tight budget.

## Airman accused of assaulting baby in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A senior airman stationed at the Ellsworth Air Force Base is charged with felony child abuse after a baby was airlifted to a Sioux Falls hospital with life-threatening injuries.

The Rapid City Journal reports James Cunningham, 26, of Rapid City is charged with abuse or cruelty to a child under age 7.

Someone called 911 Tuesday evening to report the baby was unresponsive at a Rapid City home, police said.

The baby was initially taken to a hospital in Rapid City, then was taken by air to Sioux Falls. Police spokesman Brendyn Medina said an investigation found the infant's injuries were caused by an assault.

Cunningham is expected to make his initial appearance in Pennington County court Thursday. It was not immediately clear if he has hired an attorney.

Base officials said the incident occurred off base and that they are assisting law enforcement agencies with the investigation.

## Coronavirus: South Dakota schools cancel trips, programs

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Universities in South Dakota are canceling overseas trips and students are coming home early from study abroad programs because of concerns over the coronavirus.

South Dakota State University announced Wednesday that all school-sponsored international travel is canceled.

The Argus Leader says it affects about 15 study abroad programs planned for the spring and summer terms including a spring break trip to Italy, the epicenter of Europe's coronavirus outbreak where more

than 100 people have died and more than 3,000 have been infected.

Two South Dakota State students are being brought home from their current studies in Italy.

"While a tough decision, it's one we felt was needed," said Mike Lockrem, SDSU spokesman.

The university was canceling any trips to countries that the U.S. State Department had placed under Level 3 or Level 4 travel advisories, such as China, Iran, South Korea and Italy.

## **A tense Russia-Turkey truce in Syria halts bombing campaign**

**By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press**

BEIRUT (AP) — Idlib's skies were completely free of Russian and Syrian government warplanes for the first time in weeks Friday, and residents reported a relative but tense calm as a cease-fire deal brokered by Turkey and Russia took hold in Syria's northwestern province.

The truce halted a terrifying campaign of bombing from above that killed hundreds and sent a million people fleeing toward the Turkish border during the Russian-backed assault by Syrian government forces on the country's last rebel stronghold.

The agreement, announced Thursday after a six-hour meeting between the Turkish and Russian presidents in Moscow, essentially froze the conflict lines. The deal does not force Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces to roll back military gains made in the past three months, which had been a key Turkish demand.

That effectively rules out the possibility of hundreds of thousands of displaced people returning to their homes.

The deal also lacked specifics or a known mechanism to enforce the truce. It is the latest of many cease-fire agreements for Idlib over the past few years. All have ended up unraveling after few months, triggering new government offensives that captured more territory from the opposition. Government forces now control much of Syria after evicting rebels from other parts of country.

"This is nothing more than a time for fighters to rest," Salwa Abdul-Rahman, a citizen journalist, told The Associated Press by phone from Idlib's provincial capital, which bears the same name.

"Warplanes that used to terrorize children at night and commit massacres are not flying overhead now," she said.

Although warplanes no longer launched sorties, the activists said there was minor shelling in some areas after the truce went into effect at midnight Thursday.

Russia's Vladimir Putin and Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan each back rival sides in the Syrian conflict and have become the main power brokers in the war-torn country.

The situation in Idlib worsened in recent weeks after Turkey sent thousands of troops there. Clashes with Syrian government forces have killed 60 Turkish soldiers and scores of Syrian troops since the beginning of February.

Abdul-Rahman said Idlib residents, mostly those who were displaced over the past three months, "are angry because they were hoping to return to their homes" that are now under government control. Abdul-Rahman added that people who "are now living in tents discovered they cannot return."

"This matter concerns us, Syrians, but it seems we don't have a say in this. They are playing chess with us," she said about the Russia-Turkey agreement.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said Syrian and Russian warplanes were not in the air over Idlib on Friday. Still, it reported minor violations in the first three hours of the truce.

Idlib-based opposition activist Taher al-Omar reported clashes shortly after midnight on the southern edge of Idlib.

The Observatory later reported a clash between Syrian troops and jihadi fighters in the Jabal al-Zawiya region in Idlib. The Observatory said 15 combatants were killed, six from the government side and nine from the Turkistan Islamic Party, which is largely made up of Chinese jihadis.

The Russia-Turkey agreement appears to achieve Moscow's key goal of allowing the Syrian government to keep control of the south-north highway known as the M5. Syrian forces captured the highway's last



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segments in the latest offensive.

The deal also would set up a security corridor along the M4, a key east-west highway in Idlib. According to the cease-fire deal published in Syrian pro-government media, Russian and Turkish troops are supposed to begin joint patrols on the M4 on March 15.

The reopening of the M4, which has been closed by insurgents since 2012, will be a test for the new Russia-Turkey deal.

Under a Russia-Turkey agreement reached in the summer of 2018, the two highways were supposed to be opened before the end of that year. But rejection of the deal by al-Qaida-linked militants in Idlib kept the two vital roads closed.

Erdogan said there would be "no question of change" regarding Turkey's 12 observation posts inside Idlib. The posts are manned by Turkish troops and are in place as part of a 2018 agreement with Russia. Some of these posts now fall within government-controlled territory. Erdogan was quoted by state-run Anadolu Agency on the flight back from Moscow on Friday.

The European Union's top diplomats gathered Friday in Croatia for an emergency meeting to discuss what to do about Syria. Upon arrival, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell described the cease-fire as "good news."

"Let's see how it works, that is the precondition in order to increase humanitarian help for the people in Idlib," Borrell said.

Asked if the EU should reach out to Putin, he said, "We need to improve relations with Turkey and with Russia, we have many many issues we have to improve."

He said the foreign ministers will discuss more funds for Turkey but wouldn't go into details or say how many countries support the idea and how many oppose.

Idlib is home to thousands of al-Qaida-linked militants, many of whom reject a political solution for Syria's nine-year conflict, which has left more than 400,000 people dead. The province of also home to about 3 million people, many of them displaced from other parts of Syria.

Several cease-fire deals have collapsed in the past and Assad has vowed to regain control of all parts of the country that are outside his government's control.

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Associated Press writers Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed reporting.

## **Migrants, police clash again on Greek-Turkish border**

**By COSTAS KANTOURIS Associated Press**

KASTANIES, Greece (AP) — Clashes between Greek riot police and migrants attempting to cross the border from Turkey erupted anew Friday as European Union foreign ministers held an emergency meeting to discuss the situation on the Turkey-Greece border and in Syria, where Turkish troops are fighting.

Greek riot-control police used tear gas and a water cannon to drive back people trying to cross the land border in the morning. Turkish police fired volleys of tear gas back toward Greece.

Thousands of refugees and other migrants have been trying to get into Greece through the country's eastern land and sea borders in the past week after Turkey declared its previously guarded borders with Europe were open.

Turkey's interior minister said Thursday that the government planned to deploy 1,000 special operations police to prevent Greek authorities from forcing back migrants who managed to cross.

Many asylum-seekers have been camping out on the Turkish side despite Greek insistence that its border is closed. Reporters were kept away from the border area on the Turkish side but saw at least one bus full of people leaving the area Friday morning. It was unclear where the bus was headed.

Mohammad Omid, an Afghan who has been at the border for five days with his wife, said Turkish police told him to go to there.

"We don't know what is happening. We are like toys to them," he said in the border town of Edirne. "We are like a ball to them. Everyone passes us to this side and the other side. I don't know what will happen

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to us.”

After months of threats, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said his country will no longer be the gatekeeper for Europe. He has demanded Europe shoulder more of the burden of caring for refugees, although the European Union insists it is abiding by a deal in which it disbursed billions of euros in refugee aide in return for Turkey keeping Europe-bound migrants and refugees on its soil.

His decision and its aftermath have alarmed EU countries, which are still seeing political fallout from mass migration that started five years ago.

Erdogan’s move came amid a Syrian government offensive in Syria’s northwestern Idlib province, where Turkish troops are fighting. The Russia-backed offensive has killed dozens of Turkish troops and sent nearly a million Syrian civilians toward Turkey’s sealed border.

Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin brokered a cease-fire for Idlib that took effect at midnight. It was not clear whether the agreement would also affect the situation on the Turkish-Greek border. Greek officials have repeatedly stressed those attempting to cross the border are not refugees from Idlib, and mostly not Syrian.

Speaking to a group of journalists on his return from Moscow, Erdogan signaled that there would be no change to Turkey’s policy.

“We don’t have time to discuss with Greece whether the gates which we opened are now closed. That business is over,” Turkey’s state-run Anadolu Agency quoted Erdogan as saying. “Our gates are open. The refugees will go as far as they can. We are not forcing them to leave.”

Erdogan also accused Greece of cruelty in its treatment of the migrants and told reporters he refused to attend a possible meeting in Bulgaria to discuss the migration issue. He said he did not want to appear “in the same frame” as the Greek prime minister.

EU foreign ministers met in Zagreb, Croatia to discuss for an emergency meeting on Syria and the immigration pressure at the Greek border.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell welcomed the Syria cease-fire.

“Let’s see how it works, that is the precondition in order to increase humanitarian help for the people in Idlib,” he said.

Borrell said the EU needs to improve relations with Turkey and Russia, adding the ministers will discuss more funds for Turkey. He wouldn’t provide details or say how many countries support or oppose the idea.

“Turkey is having a big burden, 4 million people, we have to understand that,” Borrell said. “But at the same time we cannot accept migrants being used as a source of pressure.”

Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok, however, said he opposed more aid for Turkey, criticizing the “cynical way” Erdogan was using refugees.

“We should not react to the pressure that Turkey is exerting on us by agreeing to more money under pressure,” he said.

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz accused Turkey of carrying out an “organized attack on Greece.”

In an interview with Germany’s Funke media group published Friday, Kurz said: “A week ago we didn’t have a humanitarian crisis in Greece, no crisis on the Turkish-Greek border and also none in Turkey. This is a planned and targeted attack, directed and organized by the state. Europe must not give in to this pressure.”

Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias said the situation on the borders would also be discussed at the meeting.

“We are facing a mass movement of migrants towards the borders of Greece and Europe,” he said. “Migrants who have been living in Turkey for years. We have clear proof that this population movement has been created and orchestrated by Turkey.”

Greek authorities have said Turkish authorities have deliberately fired tear gas at the Greek frontier to disperse border guards and so allow migrants to enter.

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said the EU should rally around Greece.

“The European Union needs to act collectively, we cannot allow one member state or two member states

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to carry an unfair burden," he said as he arrived for the Zagreb meeting.

However, he said it was unacceptable for Greek police to fire rubber bullets at migrants.

"We've got to treat people as human beings," he said. While I accept there are pressures on security forces and police officers on the border there because there has been panic... I think we have to act with restraint."

On the Greek side of the border, authorities were using locals with better knowledge of the terrain to apprehend those who manage to cross, either by cutting holes in the border fence or by crossing the Evros river — Meric in Turkish — that runs along most of the border.

"We were born here, we live here, we work here, we know the crossings better than anyone," said Panayiotis Ageladarakis, head of the community of the border village of Amorio.

Hundreds of people have also headed to Greek islands from the nearby Turkish coast. A young boy died this week when the dinghy he was in capsized off the island of Lesbos.

After a one-day surge in arrivals early in the week, bad weather hampered more sea crossings. The Greek coast guard said Friday that 59 people arrived to the islands the previous day, 17 of them rescued off the island of Kos and 42 reaching Lesbos.

Elena Becatoros in Athens, Greece, Angela Charlton in Paris, Suzan Fraser in Ankara and Mystislav Chernov in Edirne, Turkey contributed.

## Trump set to sign \$8.3B bill to combat coronavirus outbreak

By **ANDREW TAYLOR** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is expected to sign an \$8.3 billion measure on Friday to help tackle the coronavirus outbreak. The legislation would provide federal public health agencies money for vaccines, tests and potential treatments, and help state and local governments prepare for and respond to the threat.

The Senate passed the measure Thursday to help tackle the outbreak in hopes of reassuring a fearful public and accelerating the government's response to the virus. Its rapid spread is threatening to upend everyday life in the U.S. and across the globe.

The money would pay for a multifaceted attack on a virus that is spreading more widely every day, sending financial markets spiraling again Thursday, disrupting travel and potentially threatening the U.S. economy's decade-long expansion.

Thursday's sweeping 96-1 vote sends the bill to the White House for President Donald Trump's signature. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., cast the sole "no" vote. The House passed the bill Wednesday by a 415-2 vote.

The plan would more than triple the \$2.5 billion amount outlined by the White House 10 days ago. The Trump proposal was immediately discarded by members of Congress from both parties. Instead, the bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate Appropriations committees negotiated the increased figure and other provisions of the legislation in a burst of bipartisan cooperation that's common on the panel but increasingly rare elsewhere in Washington.

"In situations like this, I believe no expense should be spared to protect the American people, and in crafting this package none was," said Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala. "It's an aggressive plan, a vigorous plan that has received an overwhelming positive reaction."

Trump was sure to sign the measure, which has almost universal support. It is intended to project confidence and calm as anxiety builds over the impact of the virus, which has claimed 12 lives in the U.S.

"The American people are looking for leadership and want assurance that their government is up to the task of protecting their health and safety," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

The impact of the outbreak continues to mount. The British government is considering suspending Parliament for five months in hope of limiting the spread of the virus in the United Kingdom.

The legislation would provide federal public health agencies money for vaccines, tests and potential treatments, including \$300 million to deliver such drugs to those who need it. More than \$2 billion would

go to help federal, state and local governments prepare for and respond to the coronavirus threat. An additional \$1.3 billion would be used to help fight the virus overseas. There's also funding to subsidize \$7 billion in small business loans.

Other dollars would be directed to help local officials prepare for the potential worsening of the outbreak and subsidize treatment by community health centers. Medicare rules would be loosened to enable remote "telehealth" consultations whereby sick people could get treatment without visiting a doctor.

Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., whose state is at the center of the crisis, praised the bill because it "will increase access for public lab testing, help pay for isolation and quarantine, help pay for sanitizing in public areas, better track the virus and those who might come into contact with it, help labs who are trying to identify hot spots, and limit exposure."

The legislation contains a hard-won compromise that aims to protect against potential price gouging by drug manufacturers for vaccines and other medicines developed with taxpayer funds. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar would have the power to make sure commercial prices are reasonable. Azar is a former drug industry lobbyist.

Democrats said other steps may be needed if the outbreak continues to worsen.

"This may be a first step because we have issues that relate to unemployment insurance for people who are put out of work." Pelosi said as she signed the bill to send it to Trump.

"We have only about 27% of people in this country who have paid sick days. So if they have to go home what is going to happen to them and their families?" said Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn.

DeLauro said Pence responded that he would raise the issue with the president.

The bill seeks to restore \$136 million that the Department of Health and Human Services cut from other accounts such as heating subsidies for the poor to battle the virus.

The legislation comes as carping over the administration's response to the outbreak is quieting down. Lawmakers in both parties had faulted a shortage of tests for the virus and contrasting messages from Trump and his subordinates. In an interview with Sean Hannity of Fox News on Wednesday, Trump downplayed the lethality of the virus, saying the World Health Organization's updated estimate of a 3.4% death rate in coronavirus cases is "a false number."

"Now you're starting to see rapid deployment of tests, which makes me feel better, quite honestly," said Rep. Raul Ruiz, D-Calif., a doctor. "I think their communications are a little better. As long as the president doesn't contradict the experts and the scientists who know what they're doing, things will get better."

## **Gunmen kill at least 27 at memorial for Afghan Shiite leader**

**By TAMEEM AKHGAR Associated Press**

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

Gunmen killed at least 27 people and wounded at least 55 others in Afghanistan's capital on Friday at a remembrance ceremony for a minority Shiite leader, officials said.

Health Ministry spokesman Wahidullah Mayar said the injured had been taken to hospitals in Kabul. All of the casualties were civilians, said Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi.

Several prominent political leaders escaped the ceremony unhurt, including Abdullah Abdullah, the country's chief executive and a top contender in last year's presidential election.

Afghan security forces were still trying to flush the gunmen out of a half-finished apartment building, Rahimi said. Dozens of Afghan security forces had cordoned off area.

The Taliban have denied they were behind the attack, and while no one has claimed responsibility for carrying it out, Afghanistan's upstart Islamic State affiliate has declared war on the country's minority Shiites. Most of the people attending the memorial service were Shiite.

The attack came just days after the United States and the Taliban signed an ambitious peace deal that lays out a conditions-based path to the withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan. Any U.S. troop pullout would be tied in part to promises by the Taliban to fight terrorism and IS.

Friday's ceremony was held in the mostly Shiite Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood of the capital, Kabul. The memorial marked 25 years since the death of Abdul Ali Mazari, the leader of Afghanistan's minority ethnic Hazaras, who are mostly Shiite Muslims. He was killed in 1995 by the Taliban as they moved to take control of Kabul, which had been destroyed by a brutal civil war among mujahedeen groups, including Mazari's.

## **A promising 2020 presidential campaign for women falls short**

**By JOCELYN NOVECK and MARYCLAIRE DALE Associated Press**

At her home in suburban Detroit, Jill Warren spent Thursday morning glued to her phone, searching for news about the woman she fiercely believed should be the next president of the United States: Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

Voter Warren had known that candidate Warren (no relation) was lagging badly and would likely drop out. Still, the news of the Massachusetts senator's departure from the presidential primaries was devastating — not only because of how the senator's message had resonated with her but because the exit was a final blow to hopes, once so bright, that a woman would be chosen to face President Donald Trump in November.

"It's a day for many people of mourning, just true mourning and grieving," said Jill Warren, a 61-year-old semi-retired nonprofit consultant.

"The ascendancy of old white dudes is not over," she said.

Elizabeth Warren's exit, coming after the one-time front-runner couldn't win a single Super Tuesday state, brought home a new and painful reality to some voters: If 2019 was the Year of the Woman, with a record number of women sworn into Congress and a record number launching presidential campaigns, 2020 was another Year of the Man in presidential politics.

Polling during a string of primaries has revealed the durability of doubts about female candidates and electability. At least half of Democratic primary voters believe a woman would have a harder time than a man beating Trump, according to AP VoteCast polling in four states that voted Tuesday. What's more, women are somewhat more likely than men to say so. That comes even as solid majorities of those voters say it's important to elect a woman president in their lifetime.

The message is clear: We want a woman, but not this time.

As she announced her departure on Thursday, Warren's voice cracked when she talked about meeting so many little girls while campaigning around the country the past year, knowing they "are going to have to wait four more years," at least, to see a woman in the White House.

And she addressed what she called the "trap question" of gender in the race. "If you say, 'Yeah, there was sexism in this race,' everyone says, 'Whiner!'" she said. "And if you say, 'No, there was no sexism,' about a bazillion women think, 'What planet do you live on?'"

How different things had looked back in the summer, when Warren and five other women — a record number — appeared on the primary debate stage over two nights in late June, demonstrating the depth and diversity of the female field. Warren and California Sen. Kamala Harris earned top reviews for their debate skills.

At the time, Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, had ventured to hope the female candidates could shake up the age-old electability question left hanging by Hillary Clinton's stinging loss to Trump in 2016: Is the country ready to elect a woman president?

But this week, Walsh was left to muse on how early Democratic primary voters were acting out of fear and caution and were buying "a false narrative out there that women candidates are too risky."

"This was the year that the Democrats were hell-bent on winning," Walsh said. "A woman was defeated in 2016. There was all this talk after that, trying to explain, 'How did Donald Trump happen?' And this caution and fear has largely motivated us to the place we are right now."

All this, Walsh said, despite the great political success by female candidates in 2018, in Congress and in statewide races, showing that "as we have always said, when women run they win at about the same

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rate as men do in comparable races. We saw it across the board in 2018 and frankly in 2016, when more people voted for Clinton than Trump.”

But the women in the race this time could not compete. Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar peaked with a third-place finish in New Hampshire but fell fast after failing to build the sort of racially diverse coalition needed to win a Democratic primary. Warren’s third-place showing in Iowa was her best, despite building a large national operation and surging last summer to the top tier. Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard remains in the race but has picked up only two delegates, hundreds behind the two men leading the race, former Vice President Joe Biden and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Warren in particular came to embrace her role as the choice for voters, particularly female voters, who thought it time for a woman to be president. But there was little evidence that female voters were prioritizing gender this time around; Biden pulled ahead with female voters in most states Tuesday — including in Massachusetts, Warren’s home state.

As they carpooled over to a Klobuchar event earlier this week in Denver, next to the football stadium where the Broncos play, Linda Dee and Linda Rosales wondered when their candidate might leave the race.

By the time they arrived at Monday’s rally, Klobuchar had dropped out.

“It looks like we’re coming down to two old white guys,” said Rosales, a 64-year-old retired lab worker. “I’m disappointed.”

She and Dee left with a free green Amy 2020 T-shirt.

To be sure, many voters say progress still has been made, even though a woman won’t be at the top of the ticket. And there is a broad expectation that both Sanders and Biden will feel pressure to name a woman as their running mate.

Still, the frustration among some voters was palpable. A younger Warren supporter, LaShyra Nolen, the first black woman to be elected student council president at Harvard Medical School, said it’s not enough to have women on the ballot. Voters then need to step up and support them, she said.

“I still do believe we are living in a society that is ridden by patriarchal control and inequality,” said Nolen, 24, of Los Angeles.

For some, the dimming of women’s political fortunes felt like a marker of a fading movement. The #MeToo movement may have toppled powerful figures across industries, but some of the momentum behind gender equality is tapering off, believes Kaitlin Cornuelle, a 29-year-old director and writer in Los Angeles.

That may have an impact on how engaged women — voters critical to Democrats’ calculus in November — will be next fall, she said.

“It makes me really frustrated that we have three men who are in their late 70s, early 80s that cannot relate to me and cannot relate to most of the people in this crowd,” Cornuelle said, referring to those gathered around her at a Warren rally ahead of Super Tuesday.

Others were quick to point out one of Warren’s clear contributions to the race — a sharp confrontation with billionaire former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg over his treatment of female employees.

“Of course, she was the one to eviscerate Bloomberg,” said Iris Williamson, a 26-year-old teacher from Brooklyn, who noted with sadness that Warren didn’t seem to get credit with voters for the move. “Leave it to women to expose people for who they are and then not be rewarded for their work.”

Williamson worried how students at her all-girls school will process the results of the primaries. “I think they would question why there is such a bent toward choosing a white man all the time,” she said.

It’s not only women mourning the loss of female presidential candidates. Axel Marc Oaks Takács, a 36-year-old religious studies professor at Seton Hall University and Warren supporter, prompted an online debate as the results came in Tuesday evening, questioning why voters think Biden has a better chance against Trump than Clinton did in 2016.

“Let’s be honest, Biden and Clinton are both establishment Democrat candidates with effectively the same policies,” he wrote, asking if “patriarchy, sexism and misogyny” weren’t largely to blame.

Lucienne Beard, executive director of the Alice Paul Institute, a Mount Laurel, New Jersey, nonprofit, feels that female presidential candidates still struggle to attract the same money, visibility and media coverage

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as men. And when they do, the focus is too often on their delivery.

"It just seems like we can't accept hearing a woman's voice talking about these things. Instead we focus on her presentation: 'Is she a nasty boss?' Or being 'too teacherly?' It's like we can't win for trying," she said.

"I wish I could say it surprised me," she said. "The further we come, the goalposts just keep moving. We'll elect anything before a woman."

If anyone knows about painful losses it might be Clinton, who won popular vote in 2016 but not the job. "There still is a double standard. There are still a lot of biases about women becoming president. But I made a lot of progress, and I was thrilled that so many women ran this time," Clinton, who did not endorse anyone in the primary, told The Associated Press on Wednesday at a New York screening of an upcoming documentary on her life. "We just have to keep going until we crack that final big glass ceiling."

Noveck reported from New York, Dale from suburban Philadelphia. Associated Press writers Nicholas Riccardi in Denver, John Carucci in New York and Kathleen Ronayne in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

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

## Washington, DC, gets its first coronavirus pop-up shop

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's capital has pop-up shops for food and drink, even marijuana. And now, coronavirus prevention supplies.

As local stores sell out of masks and hand sanitizer, Adilisha Patrom, owner of a co-working and event space next to Gallaudet University, saw an opportunity and jumped on it.

Inside, her storefront, different models of face masks and hand sanitizer bottles in various sizes are displayed along a stack of information sheets from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. On Thursday, one man stopped by, asked how much the masks cost and then left.

A Florida native who came to Washington to attend Howard University, Patrom, 29, sells her masks for between \$5 and \$20, depending on the model. She also puts together prevention kits with masks, surgical gloves and sanitizer, which sell for \$20 to \$30.

The high-end N95 masks are priced at about twice what they sell for on Amazon. But Patrom says her goal isn't to get rich. Rather, she sees the shop as a service to the community and says discounts are available to those in need and to senior citizens, who are most vulnerable to the virus.

"I just feel so blessed to HAVE, just to have the ability," to stock up on supplies, she said.

The idea started with a health crisis in her own family: Patrom's father was diagnosed with a blood cancer in November. With her father's immune system weakened by ongoing chemotherapy treatments, Patrom bought boxes of N95 facemasks, which are considered superior to the basic surgical masks.

Both she and her father wear the masks routinely when going to the grocery store or elsewhere around town.

As the global coronavirus death toll increased and the virus began making inroads in the U.S., Patrom decided to stock up on hand sanitizers and open her shop. So far, business has been slow. Patrom said she has only made three sales since opening early this week. The majority of her visitors, she says, are just seeking basic information and walking away with a CDC fact sheet.

"I think people haven't started freaking out yet," she said. "A lot of people are just waiting for that first (local case)."

Asked what she thought would happen the day after the first coronavirus case is identified in the nation's capital, Patrom shuddered and said, "There will be a line down the block."

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

## 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. **CRUISE PASSENGERS AWAIT VIRUS TEST RESULTS** Coronavirus test results are expected for some of the more than 3,500 passengers and crew aboard a Princess Cruises ship held off the San Francisco coast.
2. **FEAR OF 'DEVASTATION' FOR POOR** As the number of people infected with the new virus charges toward 100,000, the World Food Program expresses concern about its impact on Africa and the Middle East.
3. **FOR US LABS, IT'S WAIT AND SEE** Lawmakers express doubts about the Trump administration's timeline to deliver 1 million tests for the coronavirus this week as states report limited testing supplies.
4. **'THE ASCENDANCY OF OLD WHITE DUDES IS NOT OVER'** Elizabeth Warren's decision to end her campaign has left many voters feeling deflated and frustrated by what they see as sexist stereotypes in presidential politics.
5. **RUSSIA-TURKEY TRUCE LARGELY HOLDS IN SYRIA** A cease-fire brokered by Turkey and Russia means no warplanes overhead and relative calm in battle-weary Idlib.
6. **GLOBAL SHARES SINK** World markets slip after a sharp drop on Wall Street, as pessimism prevails over hopes for central bank action to counter the virus outbreak.
7. **INDIAN GOVERNMENT ENFORCING SEDITION** Critics, intellectuals, human rights activists, filmmakers, students and journalists seen as opposed to Narendra Modi's government are increasingly being silenced under a colonial-era law.
8. **BARR REBUKED OVER MUELLER REPORT** A federal judge criticizes the attorney general's handling of the special counsel's Russia report, saying he had made "misleading public statements" to spin the investigation's findings in favor of Trump.
9. **GUN FOUND INSIDE EPSTEIN JAIL DURING LOCKDOWN** Federal investigators found a loaded gun that had been smuggled into the jail where the convicted sex offender killed himself last summer, AP learns.
10. **'HE LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME TO ME'** Stephen Curry scores 23 points for the Warriors in his anticipated return after missing more than four months with a broken left hand, but Toronto beats Golden State to clinch a playoff spot.

## As virus cases near 100,000, fear of 'devastation' for poor

By MATT SEDENSKY AP National Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — The number of people infected with the new virus charged toward 100,000 Friday, with the global scare upending routines, threatening livelihoods and prompting quarantines in its spread.

Asian and European shares were down following a rough day on Wall Street and the consequences of COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, were becoming clear to people around the world. Halted travel and a broader economic downturn linked to the outbreak threatened to hit already-struggling communities for months to come.

"Who is going to feed their families?" asked Elias al-Arja, the head of a hotel owners' union in Bethlehem in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where tourists have been banned and the storied Church of the Nativity shuttered.

The head of the U.N.'s food agency, the World Food Program, warned of the potential of "absolute devastation" as the outbreak's effects ripple through Africa and the Middle East.

Across the West, there was a sense of déjà vu as the virus' spread prompted scenes that already played out in Asia, with workers foregoing offices, vigorous sanitizing in public places and runs on household basics. Even the spectacle of a cruise ship ordered to stay at sea off the California coast over virus fears replicated ones weeks ago on the other side of the globe.

"The Western world is now following some of China's playbook," said Chris Beauchamp, a market analyst at the financial firm IG.



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Signs of the virus' shift away from its origins in China were becoming clearer each day.

China reported 143 new cases Friday, the same as a day earlier and about one-third what the country was seeing a week ago. Just a month ago, China was reporting several thousand new cases a day, outnumbering infections elsewhere in the world about 120 to 1. The problem has now flipped, with the outbreak moving to Europe — where Italy, Germany and France had the most cases — and beyond.

The second hardest-hit country, South Korea, was also registering a notable decline in new infections and the World Health Organization's leader said he was seeing "encouraging signs" there.

South Korea reported 505 additional cases Friday, down from a high of 851 on Tuesday. The country has touted its "remarkable diagnostic and treatment abilities" but its vice health minister, Kim Gang-lip, said, "It's not easy to make predictions about how the situation ... would play out."

Cases were increasing in Germany and France, but Italy remained the center of Europe's outbreak, particularly in its north. The country has had 148 fatalities, making it the deadliest site for the virus outside China.

The Italian government restricted visits to nursing homes and assisted living facilities to protect older people who have been more vulnerable to succumbing to COVID-19. But with schools closed nationwide, many grandparents were called to duty as last-minute babysitters anyway.

Even Vatican City was hit by the virus, with the tiny city-state confirming its first case Friday but not saying who was infected. The Vatican has insisted Pope Francis, who has been sick, only has a cold.

The Vatican said it is working with Italian authorities to keep the coronavirus from spreading, with a suspension of Pope Francis' weekly audiences seen likely.

Iran's government planned to set up checkpoints to limit travel and urged people to stop using paper money as the country has counted more than 3,500 cases and at least 107 deaths.

And in the United States, more than 230 cases were stirring anxiety around the country, nowhere more than its northwestern corner in Washington state, where officials are so concerned about having space to care for the sick they were expected to close a \$4 million deal Friday to take over a roadside motel.

The plan to turn the 84-room EconoLodge into a quarantine facility was not sitting well with everyone, including the police chief in the town where it's located, who called it "ill-advised and dangerous" and warned security would be needed to keep people from leaving the hotel and infecting others.

To the south, on the Pacific coast, California National Guard paratroopers were hoisted down from a military helicopter to deliver virus test kits to the bow of the Grand Princess cruise ship.

The vessel, with 3,500 aboard, was ordered to stay at sea after a traveler from its previous voyage died of the coronavirus and at least four others were infected. The cruise line said samples were collected from 45 passengers and crew members and results were expected later Friday.

The Grand Princess is operated by the same line as the Diamond Princess, which was quarantined at a Japanese port last month. More than 700 people on board were infected.

The 100,000 figure of infections — likely to be passed on Friday — is largely symbolic, but a milestone nonetheless. Other major outbreaks in recent decades, including SARS and MERS, affected far fewer people but had a higher mortality rate.

The new virus has spread to around 90 countries, with the Netherlands and Cameroon each reporting their first cases Friday.

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Contributing to this report were Kim Tong-Hyung and Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea; Aya Batrawy and Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Nicole Winfield in Rome; Colleen Barry in Milan, Italy; Gene Johnson in Seattle; Olga Rodriguez in San Francisco; and Mohammed Daraghme in Bethlehem, West Bank.

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UnderstandingtheOutbreak

## MH17 families hope truth emerges from unprecedented trial

By MIKE CORDER Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — United by grief across oceans and continents, families who lost loved ones when Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down in 2014 hope that a trial starting next week will finally deliver something that has remained elusive ever since: The truth.

A trial starts Monday in the Netherlands for three Russians linked to their country's security and intelligence services and a Ukrainian rebel commander. They are accused of mass murder for their alleged roles in shooting down the Boeing 777 on July 17, 2014, as it passed over conflict-torn eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 passengers and crew.

For the families of the victims, the trial is the latest development in a constant stream of news since they received devastating phone calls telling them that their loved ones had been killed.

Silene Fredriksz-Hoogzand's life as she knew it ended that summer day.

Her son Bryce and his girlfriend Daisy were killed when a missile fired from territory controlled by pro-Russian rebels tore the passenger jet apart, sending wreckage and bodies raining down onto fields of sunflowers in eastern Ukraine. The debris field spread across some 50 square kilometers (20 square miles).

"It never will return to normal," Fredriksz-Hoogzand said. "There's a life before and a life after."

Pictures and mementos of the young couple still adorn the walls of the house in Rotterdam where they lived with Fredriksz-Hoogzand and her husband, Rob. The couple's bedroom remains as it was the day they left, heading for a holiday in Indonesia.

On Monday, they will head to a conference center to watch the trial proceedings with other relatives from around the world. The actual courtroom is close to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport where the flight known as MH17 had taken off, heading for Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

The suspects most likely will stay away and be tried in absentia under Dutch law.

The scale of the trial is unprecedented in Dutch law, said Marieke de Hoon, an assistant professor of international law at Vrije University Amsterdam. The international investigation and prosecution are taking place in the Netherlands because most of the victims — 193 people — were Dutch.

"We've never seen anything like this in the Dutch system, it is huge," she said. There are so many victims, there are so many victims' relatives, and they all have the right also to be part of the proceedings — to speak, to claim damages if there is a guilty verdict."

Neither Russia nor Ukraine extradites its citizens. Russia has consistently denied involvement in the downing, even after prosecutors alleged that the Buk missile system which destroyed the passenger plane was transported into Ukraine from the Russian 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade's base in Kursk and the launching system was then returned to Russia.

That announcement led the Netherlands and Australia to declare that they are holding Russia legally responsible for the downing.

After a painstaking investigation spanning years, an international team of investigators and prosecutors last year named four suspects: Russians Igor Girkin, Sergey Dubinskiy and Oleg Pulatov as well as Ukrainian Leonid Kharchenko.

More suspects could face charges as the investigations continue.

Key questions remain over who authorized the missile's movement and who fired the Buk that brought down MH17. It remains to be seen whether the trial, expected to last months, will provide all the answers.

"My expectations are very low," Fredriksz-Hoogzand said in her home. "But what we want is to know the truth. What happened, and how? What were they thinking? Who gave the orders?"

That sentiment is shared in Malaysia by the family of Mastura Mustafa, who was a flight attendant on MH17.

"Praise Allah, we hope this trial will give us a conclusive verdict for us to know the truth on who is responsible for the downing of MH17," said her brother, Thaib Mustafa. "We truly hope that this case will

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finally come to an end after so many years.”

A clear picture has emerged over years of investigations into what brought down the flight.

A Dutch crash investigation pieced together the wreckage of the plane after it was brought to a hangar on a Dutch air force base and concluded that it was shot out of the sky by a Buk missile.

Separately, a Joint Investigation Team made up of experts from the most-affected countries examined the wreckage and body parts, questioned witnesses and experts, studied radar and satellite images and analyzed data and intercepted communications before indicting the four suspects.

The team said last year there was “almost daily telephone contact” between the self-proclaimed leaders of the pro-Russia rebel Donetsk People’s Republic “and their contacts in the Russian Federation.”

“They spoke with leaders in Moscow, near the border with Ukraine and in Crimea. Communication mostly took place via secure telephones provided by the Russian security service,” it said.

Russia has rejected the investigation as one-sided and put forward its own theories as to what happened, alleging that Ukrainian forces which also have Buk missile systems were to blame.

The opening days of the trial will involve judges taking stock of the investigation so far. Prosecutors will summarize their case, but evidence is unlikely to be examined until hearings later this year.

That is when the victims’ next-of-kin will be able to make statements.

Fredriksz-Hoogzand and her husband will have plenty to say when their time comes. It wasn’t until 14 months after the shootdown that they were able to hold a funeral for Bryce and Daisy.

“We had a cremation. They were cremated together, what was left of them,” she said. “That was not much.”

Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur contributed.

## Arab voters key to blocking Netanyahu-led hard-line majority

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

TIRA, Israel (AP) — A surge in Arab voter turnout was key to depriving Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his nationalist allies of a parliamentary majority in this week’s Israeli election.

Undercutting Netanyahu’s ambitions was celebrated as sweet payback in the nearly 2 million-strong minority that the hard-line leader had relentlessly tried to tarnish as disloyal to the state.

An Arab-led alliance of parties is sending more lawmakers than ever to the new parliament, giving them unprecedented leverage to deliver results for their constituents and potentially transform Israel’s electoral politics for years to come.

Looking to galvanize his nationalist base, Netanyahu lambasted Arab lawmakers during the campaign as terrorist sympathizers who advocated for Palestinian interests and were a danger to the country. But the harsh rhetoric, coupled with concern over President Donald Trump’s Mideast plan and other legislation deemed discriminatory, seems to have backfired by energizing Arab voters.

“He’s a little racist and talked trash about Arabs, Arabs, Arabs. He talked dirty, and we showed him what Arabs can do,” Mahmoud Hazkiya, a 31-year-old salesman in the central Israeli town of Tira, said with a smile. “Arabs are interested now, and we are not getting what we deserve.”

Breaking out of years of political apathy, nearly 65% of Israel’s Arab citizens voted in Monday’s election — up from 59% in the September vote and 49% last April. It marked the highest Arab turnout since 1999.

With mergers among the Jewish-led leftist parties leaving their Arab candidates out of reasonable slots for parliament, Arabs rallied around the Joint List, with 88% casting their ballots for the umbrella group.

Together with a projected 20,000 Jewish votes, the list surged to an all-time high of 15 seats, emerging as the third largest party in parliament, trailing only Netanyahu’s Likud and Benny Gantz’s centrist Blue and White. More significantly, it secured a 62-58 majority for the anti-Netanyahu forces in parliament and blocked Netanyahu, who had initially declared a “great victory” after Monday’s vote, from establishing the hawkish government he wanted.

“The Joint List is here. The Arab public is here. We forced everyone — because of our power, because

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of our public that granted us power — to treat us as an important and decisive factor,” lawmaker Ahmad Tibi told Israel’s Army Radio Thursday. He said the two additional seats picked up by the Joint List from September’s election prevented Benjamin Netanyahu from getting a 61-seat majority.

Tibi featured prominently in Netanyahu’s campaign as a symbol of the supposed illegitimate partners that Gantz would need for a coalition. Likud’s main campaign slogan was: “Without Tibi, Gantz has no government.” Tibi gleefully noted that it was now Netanyahu who had no government without Tibi.

Even so, he refrained from endorsing Gantz for prime minister after the former military chief ruled out a partnership with the Joint List. If Gantz and the Joint List can’t resolve their differences, Israel could be looking at the prospect of a fourth consecutive election later this year.

Israel’s Arabs, who make up about 20 percent of the country’s 9 million citizens, have largely been marginalized politically since the founding of the state in 1948.

The Jewish establishment, leery of including those it perceived as identifying with the country’s adversaries, kept Arab-led parties out of government. Arab leaders also insisted they had no interest in joining a government for fear of legitimizing Israel’s military occupation of Palestinian areas or being perceived as condoning military operations against their Palestinian brethren.

But a younger generation more comfortable with a dual Israeli-Arab identity and demanding solutions to everyday domestic issues has been far more eager to have a voice.

Polls show an overwhelming majority of Arab citizens want their leaders to focus more on reducing crime, improving infrastructure and addressing a housing crunch and discrimination rather than focusing exclusively on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

“Yes, there is a connection to the Palestinians. But at the end of the day we live in a country where you need to take care of yourself and then you can take care of others,” said 33-year-old Zidan Hazkiya, the salesman’s cousin. “We need a good future for our children: employment, education and many other things to move forward in life.”

In Tira, a town of 25,000 people known for their warm relations with nearby Jewish communities, the 72.5% turnout was even higher than the national average. More than 96% of the votes went to the Joint List.

Part of the motivation derived from deep-seated anger over a law passed by Netanyahu’s government in 2018 that declared Israel to be the nation-state of the Jewish people and which Arabs believe codifies discrimination. Another was the suggestion in Trump’s recent Mideast plan that densely populated Arab communities in Israel be added to a future Palestinian state.

But mostly it seems to reflect the Arab minority’s increasing desire to take a more active role in shaping the country.

“The more seats we get, the more power we will have,” said Fadila Maha, a 48-year-old mother of five. “God willing, if there are elections again they will get not 15, but 20.”

Arik Rudnitzky, an expert on Arab society at the Israel Democracy Institute think tank, said the unified message by the Joint List’s different factions played a key part in convincing Arabs their votes would matter.

“There was optimism in the air. They felt that their representatives aren’t busy with their own rivalries and were concentrated on one goal,” he explained. “The public wanted to prove that ‘we are citizens of the state and you cannot just treat us as temporary or tentative citizens.’”

They still have a long way to go. On Wednesday, Netanyahu all but said their votes don’t count when it comes to the tricky arithmetic of resolving Israel’s third inconclusive election in less than a year. Scrawling his analysis of the election results on a board, he jotted down 58 seats for what he called the “Zionist right” and 47 for the “Zionist left.”

The Joint List, he said, “is obviously not part of this equation.”

But even that slight didn’t dampen enthusiasm on the Arab street after their historic achievement.

“We voted for change,” said Amir Abu-Het, a 39-year-old restaurant manager. “Netanyahu is more of the same, but now we have more power to move forward.”

## Alabama executes man convicted in killing of 3 officers

By KIM CHANDLER Associated Press

ATMORE, Ala. (AP) — A man convicted as an accomplice in the 2004 killings of three police officers in Alabama who were shot by another man was executed Thursday evening.

Inmate Nathaniel Woods, 43, was pronounced dead at 9:01 p.m. CST Thursday following a lethal injection at the state prison in Atmore, authorities said. The inmate had no last words before the chemicals began flowing, but appeared to arrange his hands in a sign of his Islamic faith.

Alabama's first execution of the year came after a last minute bid to stop it, that included support from the son of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., and others who argued it was unfair to execute a man who didn't pull the trigger in the slaying.

The state of Alabama said that Woods was an active participant with the slayings and had bragged about it afterward in statements, song lyrics and art.

The U.S. Supreme Court issued a temporary stay to consider last-minute appeals and then denied the inmate's petitions. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey denied a request for clemency.

Woods and Kerry Spencer were convicted of capital murder and sentenced to death in the slayings of the three Birmingham officers. The officers' deaths in a hail of gunfire rocked Alabama's largest city in 2004. Carlos Owen, Harley A. Chisolm III and Charles R. Bennett died while trying to serve a misdemeanor domestic assault warrant on Woods at a suspected drug house.

Prosecutors said Spencer was the triggerman in the slaying, opening fire on the officers with a high-powered rifle inside the apartment, though Woods was convicted as an accomplice.

Family members of the slain officers gave statements to the media after the execution, describing lives shattered by the shootings.

"Nathaniel Woods chose his fate on June 17, 2004. That horrific day could have been prevented if he had any kind of compassion or respect for law enforcement," Starr Sidelinker said in reading a statement on behalf of Chisholm's sister.

Greg Owen, the son of officer Owen, said in a written statement that his father was a 58-year-old grandfather who only wanted to protect people in the city where he grew up.

"Instead of going home that day, he was ambushed, murdered and died on the floor of a filthy drug house," Greg Owen wrote.

Testimony showed the officers approached a small house where Woods and Spencer were believed to deal drugs; at least two other people were also inside. After talking to Woods through a back door, Owen and Chisholm entered. State lawyers wrote in court filings that Woods said he was surrendering to officers and soon after Spencer opened fire with a high-powered rifle. At his 2005 trial, a prosecutor told jurors that Woods was the "bait" and lured officers deeper in the apartment.

Owen, 58, and Chisholm, 40, were found dead in the kitchen just inside a rear door, and Bennett, 33, was fatally shot near the front door. A fourth officer was wounded but survived.

Supporters waged a last-minute appeal to stop the execution as the case drew national attention. Supporters argued that Spencer said he was the sole person responsible for the shootings and that Woods received an unfair trial in 2005.

"He is actually innocent," Woods' sister, Pamela Woods, had told reporters outside the prison earlier Thursday. "Kerry Spencer the actual shooter has stated many times that he did it on his own with no help for anyone."

Spencer told The Appeal in an article about the case that Woods was "100% innocent."

"Killing this African American man, whose case appears to have been strongly mishandled by the courts, could produce an irreversible injustice. Are you willing to allow a potentially innocent man to be executed?" Martin Luther King III had written the state's governor, Ivey.

Woods had no last words after the warden read his death warrant. At one point during the procedure, the inmate jerked his left arm upward against the restraints of the gurney. His breathing became labored

and then slowed until it was no longer apparent.

No execution date has been set for Spencer, who was convicted before Woods and is on death row.

This story has been corrected to show that the last name of one of the officers killed and his son Greg, quoted, was Owen, not Owens.

## Cruise passengers off California await virus test results

By **OLGA RODRIGUEZ** and **ADAM GELLER** Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Coronavirus test results were expected Friday for some passengers and crew aboard a cruise ship held off the California coast.

The Grand Princess lay at anchor near San Francisco on Thursday after a traveler from a previous voyage died of the disease and at least four others became infected. While the more than 3,500 aboard the 951-foot (290-meter) vessel were ordered to stay at sea as officials scrambled to keep the virus at bay, only 45 were identified for testing, Princess Cruises said in a statement.

"The ship will not come on shore until we appropriately assess the passengers," California Gov. Gavin Newsom said.

A Sacramento-area man who sailed on the ship in February later succumbed to the coronavirus. Two other passengers from that voyage have been hospitalized with the virus in Northern California, and two Canadians who recently sailed aboard the ship tested positive after returning home, officials said.

Northern California officials also are awaiting test results from a man who died Thursday after being on a cruise where others have tested positive.

Meanwhile, the U.S. death toll from the coronavirus climbed to 12 on Thursday, with all but one victim in Washington state, while the number of infections swelled to over 200, scattered across 18 states. Colorado and Nevada reported their first cases.

Nine of the dead were from the same suburban Seattle nursing home, now under federal investigation. Families of nursing home residents voiced anger, having received conflicting information about the condition of their loved ones. One woman was told her mother had died, then got a call from a staffer who said her mother was doing well, only to find out she had, in fact, died, said Kevin Connolly, whose father-in-law is also a facility resident.

"This is the level of incompetence we're dealing with," Connolly said at an emotional news conference in front of the Life Care Center in Kirkland.

The federal investigation of the nursing home will determine whether it followed guidelines for preventing infections. Last April, the state fined it \$67,000 over infection-control deficiencies after two flu outbreaks.

The coronavirus has infected more than 98,000 people worldwide and killed over 3,300, the vast majority of them in China.

U.S. health officials said they expect a far lower death rate than the World Health Organization's international estimate of 3.4% — a high rate that doesn't account for mild cases that go uncounted.

U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health Brett Giroir cited a model that included mild cases to say the U.S. could expect a death rate somewhere between 0.1% — akin to the seasonal flu's — and 1%. The risk is highest for older people and anyone with conditions such as heart or lung disease, diabetes or suppressed immune systems.

Some major businesses in the Seattle area, where researchers say the virus may have circulated undetected for weeks, have shut down some operations or urged employees to work from home. That includes Microsoft and Amazon, the two tech giants that together employ more than 100,000 people in the region. The 22,000-student Northshore district announced it will close for up to two weeks as a precaution.

With many commuters off the road, traffic on the Seattle area's notoriously congested freeways were much lighter Thursday.

King County is buying a motel for \$4 million to house patients and hopes to have the first of them in place within days at the 84-room EconoLodge in Kent, about 20 miles (32 km) from Seattle. The rooms' doors

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open to the outside rather than to a central hallway, reducing the likelihood of contact between patients.

The plan was met with resistance from local leaders, including Kent Police Chief Rafael Padilla, who called it "ill-advised and dangerous" and warned: "At any point a patient can simply walk into our community and spread the virus."

Around the country, New York's mayor implored the federal government to send more test kits to his state, which saw its caseload double overnight to 22, all of them in or near the city. Gap Inc. said it has closed its New York office and is asking employees to work from home "until further notice" after learning that one of its employees was confirmed to have the new virus.

In Rhode Island, about 200 people were quarantined because of their connections to a school trip to Italy that has so far resulted in three cases. Amid four cases in Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis said the risks remain low for most people planning trips to the state for spring break or baseball's spring training.

On Wall Street, fears about the outbreak led to a sharp selloff, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average falling 970 points, or 3.6%. The drop extended two weeks of wild swings in the market, with stocks fluctuating 2% or more for the fourth day in a row.

The ship off California was returning to San Francisco after visiting Hawaii. Some of the passengers remained on board after sailing on its previous voyage, to the Mexican ports of Puerto Vallarta, Manzanillo, Mazatlan and Cabo San Lucas.

Princess Cruise Lines said that no cases of the virus had been confirmed among those still on the ship. But dozens of passengers have had flu-like symptoms over the past two weeks or so, said Mary Ellen Carroll, executive director of San Francisco's Department of Emergency Management.

"Once we have results from the tests," she said, authorities "will determine the best location for the ship to berth."

A military helicopter lowered by rope and later retrieved the test kits Thursday, bound for a lab in Richmond, California, authorities said.

Michele Smith, a Grand Princess passenger, posted video of the helicopter to Facebook. Another video shows a crew member wearing gloves and a mask and spraying and wiping a handrail.

"We have crews constantly cleaning our ship," Smith is heard saying.

In a post, Smith said she and her husband are not quarantined and were told only the people who had been on the Mexico voyage or those showing flu-like symptoms had to isolate.

"Spirits are as high as can be under these circumstances. We are blessed to be healthy, comfortable and well-fed," she wrote.

But a late-night statement Thursday from the cruise line said all guests were asked to stay in their rooms while results were awaited, following CDC guidelines.

A passenger from the Mexico voyage, Judy Cadiz of Lodi, California, said she and her husband became ill afterward but did not give it much thought until learning a fellow traveler had died of the virus. Now, they cannot get a straight answer about how to get tested, she said.

With Mark Cadiz, 65, running a fever, the couple worries not only about themselves, but about the possibility that — if they contracted the infection — they could have passed it on to others.

"They're telling us to stay home, but nobody told me until yesterday to stay home. We were in Sacramento, we were in Martinez, we were in Oakland. We took a train home from the cruise," Judy Cadiz said Thursday. "I really hope that we're negative so nobody got infected."

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Geller reported from New York. Associated Press writers Janie Har and Jocelyn Gecker in San Francisco; Christopher Weber in Los Angeles; Gene Johnson, Martha Bellisle and Carla K. Johnson in Seattle; Rachel La Corte in Olympia, Washington; and AP researcher Monika Mathur in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

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## With hand sanitizer nearby, Dubai Comic Con laughs at virus

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — As papier-mâché hand grenades and plastic assault rifles barely caught the attention of security guards, a health official in Dubai wordlessly watched over an infrared camera filming all who passed by — including a few scythe-wielding Grim Reapers.

Welcome to Comic Con in the times of the new coronavirus.

The Middle East Film & Comic Con began Thursday night in Dubai, a city of skyscrapers and nightclubs suddenly subdued by the outbreak of the new virus across the region. The wider United Arab Emirates has at least 28 confirmed cases of the virus, a small number compared to the 3,750 cases region wide, but the concern here is growing.

Nationwide, schools and universities will be shut down for four weeks beginning Sunday. The few frequent fliers trickling out of Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest for international travel and the home of long-haul carrier Emirates, say it is emptier than they've ever seen it. Meanwhile, a host of big events including Dubai's annual boat show and art exhibition have been put on hold.

But not Comic Con. As actor John Rhys-Davies — you know him as the Egyptian character Sallah from the "Indiana Jones" franchise — exhorted a crowd to become filmmakers themselves, the halls at the Dubai World Trade Center slowly filled.

For the uninitiated, anyone can come to a Comic Con in your street clothes. But many choose to cosplay, or "costume play," as a favorite character from a film, television show, video game or comic book.

An initial surprise came from an Emirati in the traditional kandora robes, ghutra headscarf and lifelike mask of Nemesis from the "Resident Evil" video game series. He played a guitar for happy Instagramers. Hand sanitizer stations stood at the ready nearby.

For the Nintendo-famed plumbers Mario and Luigi — rather 24-year-old Bibi Zumot of Jordan and 21-year-old Mohamed Rashed of Egypt — they acknowledged that the coronavirus did come up in their minds as they attended. And if it hadn't, "my mom, my friends' mom, everyone's mom" had reminded them beforehand, Rashed said.

Luckily, the two plumbers wear large gloves. Rashed substituted in two sets of latex gloves, which he snapped to show journalists.

"The gloves still work with the Luigi thing," said Rashed, who went as a voodoo doll to his first Comic Con.

Both Rashed and Zumot praised the organizers for having thermal scanners, hand sanitizer and medical staff on hand for the event. However, Zumot offered a bit more of a fatalistic view.

"If corona gets me, it's going to get me!" he bellowed in his red overalls.

Others took a bit more of a cautious view, wearing off-character surgical masks or in-character protection like bandit masks covering the lower half of their faces. Most seemed unconcerned by the Grim Reapers moving through the crowd to the beat of pop music.

One cosplayer, who only gestured to a journalist when questioned, wore the long-nose black beak of a plague doctor. It didn't stop a woman in a mask from taking a selfie with him.

Stands sold pop-culture paintings infused with an Emirati vibe. A Batman next to a Dubai police officer getting out of a sports car. The DeLorean from "Back to the Future" in front of the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, with the caption "Back to Dubai."

Other stands tested the germaphobe. A giant mockup of Thor's hammer, supposedly unliftable except for the worthy, found itself lifted and touched all over by every person wanting a photograph.

Deeper inside, those costumed took part in sessions of a dance contest to win prizes. They watched monitors for the moves, egged on by a master of ceremonies who may have exaggerated his qualifications.

"There's no corona anywhere in this building! I checked!" he shouted.



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As a new contest began, three Emiratis dressed in shark onesies threw themselves onto the stage as the "SOS," or "Squad of Sharks." As the first chords of the 1997 hit "Backstreet's Back" belted out, 18-year-old squad member Hamad al-Shamsi of Abu Dhabi reached inside his onesie for hand sanitizer.

It was a joke, sort of.

"Better safe than sorry," he said.

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP](http://www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP).

## **Sanders struggles to expand supporter base after Warren exit**

**By STEVE PEOPLES and ALAN FRAM Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — It took Joe Biden's moderate rivals just hours to unite behind his presidential campaign after they left the race. Bernie Sanders hasn't been so fortunate.

Elizabeth Warren, one of Sanders' closest ideological allies, declined to endorse anyone after suspending her campaign on Thursday. She didn't rule out an endorsement of her New England neighbor but said she wanted to "take a deep breath and spend a little time on that."

High-profile Warren supporters across the country, particularly women, were also hesitant to race into Sanders' camp. And on Capitol Hill, where Biden was racking up new endorsements daily, the Vermont senator hasn't earned a single new endorsement, even among the most progressive elected officials, in two weeks.

The dangerous silence from Warren and progressive officials across the country comes at the worst time for Sanders, who's suddenly losing momentum in a two-man race with the former vice president as another set of high-stakes primary elections looms. Sanders is moving forward with the same coalition that was beaten soundly earlier this week. And if he cannot find a way to grow, and grow quickly, the Vermont senator's 2020 challenge will only become more dire.

There is an increasing sense of frustration within Sanders' campaign, where a divide over strategy has emerged between opposing camps, according to a person close to the campaign who spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose private discussions.

On one side, campaign manager Faiz Shakir wants to empower the pool of existing supporters, such as progressive congresswomen Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Rashida Tlaib, because of their organic appeal to voters. On the other, senior adviser Jeff Weaver is pushing for a wider range of endorsements to broaden Sanders' coalition.

Within the campaign, some lament Sanders' unwillingness to court elected officials as Biden's coalition grows exponentially. The former vice president earned endorsements this week from three former rivals just hours after they suspended their campaigns: Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar and Mike Bloomberg. Another former competitor, former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, also endorsed Biden on the eve of Texas' primary, which Biden narrowly won.

Biden's team has already announced plans to dispatch Klobuchar, a Midwestern moderate, to Michigan ahead of the state's critical primary election on Tuesday.

Many would-be Sanders supporters, meanwhile, are taking a wait-and-see approach.

Adam Green, the co-founder of the Progressive Campaign Change Committee, said the organization would ultimately endorse whomever Warren does.

"We are among her many supporters who are rooting for her to exert every ounce of leverage she has in this moment of goodwill in order to advance the big ideas and the people she cares so much about," Green said Thursday.

He said Warren, a former Harvard law professor and expert on the legalities of contracts, would approach the decision carefully and that process "might be time-intensive or it might not be."

The National Organization for Women, whose political action committee endorsed Warren earlier in the week, encouraged Warren to take her time. In an interview, NOW President Toni Van Pelt urged Warren not to endorse Sanders.

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"She has a lot of leverage right now. We do trust her to make the right decisions on how to proceed. But we'd like her not to rush into this," Van Pelt told The Associated Press.

"We think that our constituents, our members, will not necessarily think of Sanders as the best choice. We wouldn't have the Violence Against Women Act if it wasn't for Biden's leadership," she continued. "Sanders doesn't have a record. He's really, as far as we know, done next to nothing for women and for our issues."

Sanders has the public support of nine members of Congress, yet he has earned no new endorsements since Feb. 20. Biden has won at least 26 this week alone.

One of Sanders' few allies in Congress, Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., said Thursday that Warren's support would be "a game-changer." "But that's her decision to make," he said.

Khanna said it has been difficult to line up congressional endorsements for Sanders because "he was seen as such a long shot" originally. He and other Sanders supporters have hosted a half dozen "salons" — evening gatherings in Washington with groups of 10 to 15 lawmakers — to try to generate new support.

"He very much values these endorsements," Khanna said of Sanders.

But relative to his rivals, Sanders and his senior team have not invested as much time or energy into courting influential Democrats or their networks. Sanders' team suggested their outreach would grow substantially after Super Tuesday, yet there has been little sign of a strategic shift in recent days.

Sanders' allies concede that his unique candidacy presents challenges as they try to grow. Specifically, his core message rails against the political establishment. And by definition, elected officials are part of the establishment.

"It is hard to wage a war against the political establishment and win their support. Bernie was always going to do this on the backs of the grassroots movement," said Neil Sroka, of the group Democracy For America, which endorsed Sanders this week.

One potential bright spot: Sanders in the coming days is expected to win the backing of the Working Families Party, which endorsed Warren last fall. The group declined to weigh in on a possible endorsement immediately after Warren's exit on Thursday but has publicly signaled support for both Warren and Sanders.

Former Democratic presidential contender Marianne Williamson, who endorsed Sanders last month, decried the wave of establishment support for Biden. She called it "a coup" on social media, but in an interview, she suggested that Sanders could do a better job of expanding his coalition.

She said Sanders did a better job four years ago speaking to "the needs and aspirations of white, working-class people."

"I do hope that more effort will be made to make it clearer that his positions, his platform and his policies uplift every working and would-be working person. That was clear last time, and I wish it were clearer this time," Williamson said.

Meanwhile, elected officials on the ground in key states offered an inside look at Sanders' political operation.

Former Iowa Secretary of State candidate Deidre DeJear, who became the state's first African American to represent a major party on the statewide ballot in 2018, said she spoke personally with at least 10 Democratic presidential contenders before Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses last month.

Sanders was the only major omission, even though she made a weeklong effort to seek him out.

"There is strength in building a coalition that is going to continue to grow. And they're not focusing on their growth," said DeJear, who ultimately decided to support Warren.

She added: "I don't think anybody can doubt his commitment to certain things. But in this point in which we stand as a country, I'm wondering if he is the best leader for the office of the president."

Peoples reported in New York. Associated Press writer Will Weissert in Washington contributed to this report.

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

## Cruise ship is held off California coast for virus testing

By **OLGA RODRIGUEZ** and **ADAM GELLER** Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Scrambling to keep the coronavirus at bay, officials ordered a cruise ship with 3,500 people aboard to stay back from the California coast Thursday until passengers and crew can be tested, after a traveler from its previous voyage died of the disease and at least four others became infected.

A military helicopter lowered test kits onto the 951-foot (290-meter) Grand Princess by rope as the vessel lay at anchor off the coast of San Francisco, and authorities said the results would be available Friday. Princess Cruise Lines said fewer than 100 people aboard had been identified for testing.

“The ship will not come on shore until we appropriately assess the passengers,” Gov. Gavin Newsom said.

The precaution was prompted by the death of a Sacramento-area man who succumbed to the coronavirus after he had been on an earlier sailing of the ship, in February. Two other passengers from that voyage have been hospitalized with the virus in Northern California, and two Canadians who recently sailed aboard the ship tested positive after returning home, officials said.

Northern California officials also are awaiting test results from a man who died Thursday after being on a cruise where others have tested positive.

Meanwhile, the U.S. death toll from the coronavirus climbed to 12 on Thursday, with all but one of the victims in Washington state, and the number of infections swelled to over 200, scattered across 18 states. Colorado and Nevada reported their first cases. Nine of the dead were from the same suburban Seattle nursing home, now under federal investigation.

Families of nursing home residents voiced anger Thursday after receiving conflicting information about the condition of their loved ones. One woman was told her mother had died, then got another call from a staffer who said she was doing well, only to find out she had, in fact, died, said Kevin Connolly, whose father-in-law is also a resident.

“This is the level of incompetence we’re dealing with,” Connolly said at an emotional news conference outside the facility.

Around the country, New York’s mayor implored the federal government to send more test kits to his state, which saw its caseload double overnight to 22, all of them in or near the city. In Rhode Island, about 200 people were quarantined because of their connections to a school trip to Italy that has so far resulted in three cases of the coronavirus. Amid four cases in Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis said the risks remain low for most people planning trips to the state for spring break or baseball’s spring training.

On Wall Street, fears about the outbreak led to a sharp selloff, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average falling 970 points, or 3.6 percent. The drop extended two weeks of wild swings in the market, with stocks fluctuating 2 percent or more for the fourth day in a row.

Princess Cruise Lines said that no cases of the virus had been confirmed among those still on the ship. But dozens of passengers have had flu-like symptoms over the past two weeks or so, said Mary Ellen Carroll, executive director of San Francisco’s Department of Emergency Management.

“Once we have results from the tests,” she said, authorities “will determine the best location for the ship to berth.”

Video from the California National Guard showed a helicopter approaching the bow of the ship and lowering three helmeted paratroopers into an empty area with a swimming pool with what appeared to be a freezer chest and other items.

The kits would be delivered to a lab in Richmond, California, authorities said.

The ship was returning to San Francisco after visiting Hawaii. Some of the passengers remained on board after sailing on its previous voyage to the Mexican ports of Puerto Vallarta, Manzanillo, Mazatlan and Cabo San Lucas.

A passenger from the Mexico voyage, Judy Cadiz of Lodi said she and her husband became ill afterward but did not give it much thought until learning a fellow traveler had died of the virus. Now they cannot get a straight answer about how to get tested, she said.

With Mark Cadiz, 65, running a fever, the couple worries not only about themselves, but about the possibility that — if they contracted the infection — they could have passed it on to others.

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"They're telling us to stay home, but nobody told me until yesterday to stay home. We were in Sacramento, we were in Martinez, we were in Oakland. We took a train home from the cruise," Judy Cadiz said Thursday. "I really hope that we're negative so nobody got infected."

The coronavirus has infected nearly 98,000 people worldwide and killed over 3,300, the vast majority of them in China.

U.S. health officials said they expect a far lower death rate than the World Health Organization's international estimate of 3.4% — a rate admittedly too high because it doesn't account for mild cases that go uncounted.

Assistant Health Secretary Brett Giroir cited a model that included mild cases to say the U.S. could expect a death rate somewhere between 0.1% — like seasonal flu — and 1%. The risk is highest for older people and anyone with conditions such as heart or lung disease, diabetes or suppressed immune systems, such as from cancer treatments.

At least 70 coronavirus cases have been reported in Washington state, most them in the Seattle area, where researchers say the virus may have been circulating undetected for weeks.

Some major Seattle-area businesses, including Microsoft, Amazon and outdoor gear manufacturer REI have shut down some operations or urged employees to work from home. The two tech giants together employ more than 100,000 people in the region.

Gap Inc. said it has closed its New York office and is asking employees to work from home "until further notice" after learning that one of its employees was confirmed to have the new virus.

Seattle's King County is buying a motel for \$4 million to house coronavirus patients and hopes to have the first of them in place within days at the 84-room EconoLodge in Kent, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Seattle.

Kent Police Chief Rafael Padilla called the plan "ill-advised and dangerous," warning that "at any point, a patient can simply walk into our community and spread the virus."

Federal health authorities are investigating the nursing home at the epicenter of the nation's worst outbreak, the Life Care Center in Kirkland, to determine whether it followed guidelines for preventing infections. Last April, the state fined the nursing home \$67,000 over infection-control deficiencies after two flu outbreaks.

Geller reported from New York. Associated Press writers Janie Har and Jocelyn Gecker in San Francisco; Gene Johnson, Martha Bellisle and Carla K. Johnson in Seattle; Rachel La Corte in Olympia, Washington; Anne D'Innocenzio in New York and AP researcher Monika Mathur in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

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

## Asian shares drop as virus fears grip markets again

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares slipped Friday as fears about the virus outbreak once again dominated financial markets.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei dived 3.1% to 20,663.32. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 2.1% to 6,259.20. South Korea's Kospi dropped 2.3% to 2,037.08. Hong Kong's Hang Seng declined 2.1% to 26,213.51, while the Shanghai Composite slumped 0.9% to 3,049.95. Shares also dropped in Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

Markets have endured roller coaster ups and downs for weeks amid uncertainty over how much damage the outbreak of the new coronavirus will do to the global economy.

Vishnu Varathan at Mizuho Bank in Singapore said the potential damage from the new virus was two-fold, with the initial impact coming from a direct impact on the economy.

"One succumbs to the sheer fear of community spread, prospects of deep economic impact from a sharp

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drop off in demand for travel and seizures in supply-chains," Varathan said in a commentary.

"The other is a strain that thrives on hopes of stimulus; be it frantic central bank rate cuts, the lull of liquidity infusions or more targeted fiscal offsets to provide pain relief," he said.

On Wall Street, major indexes lost roughly 3.5%, nearly wiping out the rally from a day before that was fueled by hopes authorities around the world will move to cushion the economic fallout.

These vicious swings are likely to continue, as long as the number of new infections continues to accelerate, many analysts and professional investors say. Thursday was the fourth straight day where the S&P 500 moved at least 2%, the longest such stretch since the summer of 2011.

The growing understanding that the spread of infections — and resulting damage to the economy — may not slow anytime soon is pulling sharply on markets. That pull has taken turns this week with the increasingly worldwide push that governments and central banks are trying to give markets through spending plans and interest-rate cuts.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note went as low as 0.81% for the first time in history, according to Tradeweb. Tumbling yields have brought the average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage to a record low of 3.29%.

"It's been a roller-coaster market in recent days for equity investors, and today we appear to be on the downward leg for that ride," said Terry Sandven, chief equity strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "What you need is time, and unfortunately that is still going to result in volatility."

In China, where the virus outbreak has been steady, stocks trading in Shanghai have rallied nearly 12% since scraping bottom on Feb. 3. Factories there are gradually reopening, and a return to a sense of normal life may even be on the horizon following swift and severe actions by the government to corral the new form of coronavirus.

But elsewhere in the world, the mood is darker. There are about 17 times as many new infections outside China as in it, according to the World Health Organization.

In the U.S., the death toll climbed to 12 due to the virus. California declared a statewide emergency, Facebook is temporarily closing a Seattle office after a worker was diagnosed with the virus and an industry group said the outbreak could cost airlines as much as \$113 billion in lost revenue.

The S&P 500 fell 3.4% to 3,023.94. It's now 10.7% below the record high it set on Feb. 19. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slumped 3.6% to 26,121.28 and the Nasdaq lost 3.1%, to 8,738.60.

Losses were widespread, and energy stocks in the S&P 500 dropped to their lowest level since March 2009, when they were emerging from the financial crisis.

"The Western world is now following some of China's playbook, closing schools and declaring a state of emergency for example, but there is a sense that this is too little, too late," said Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at IG.

Travel-related companies fell again on worries that frightened customers won't want to confine themselves in planes or boats with others. Royal Caribbean Cruises sank 16.3%, Carnival fell 14.1% and American Airlines Group lost 13.4%.

U.S. congressional leaders reached a deal on an \$8.3 billion bill to battle the outbreak, which the Senate passed Thursday, and the Bank of Canada followed up on the Federal Reserve's surprise cut to interest rates the day before with its own.

Some economists expect the European Central Bank to take action to support markets before its meeting on March 12.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude gave up 43 cents to \$45.47 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 88 cents to \$45.90 per barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, the international standard, shed 51 cents to \$49.48 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 105.77 Japanese yen from 106.13 yen on Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1239 from \$1.1140.

## Trump defends his rhetoric in 1st TV town hall of 2020

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP) — President Donald Trump defended the administration's response to the coronavirus and his confrontational style of name-calling political opponents as he fielded questions Thursday from select members of the public in his first TV town hall of the 2020 election cycle.

Trump, who regularly calls his top Democratic presidential opponents "Sleepy Joe" and "Crazy Bernie," was asked whether he could deliver his message without the controversial rhetoric. "When they hit us, we have to hit back. I really feel that," Trump said in response to the first of two questions about civility. "You can't turn your cheek."

Fox News, the president's favorite network, hosted the live event in Scranton, Pennsylvania, a rare instance where the president answered questions from the public.

The first question, from an undecided voter, was about the administration's response to the virus. The number of the cases in the U.S. stood at about 200 on Thursday, including 12 deaths — 11 in Washington state and one in California.

"Everybody has to be calm. It's all going to work out," Trump said, sounding defensive at times as a pair of Fox News journalists pressed him on the issue. "We hope it doesn't last too long."

It was Trump's first 2020 visit to Pennsylvania, a battleground state he won by about 44,000 votes in 2016. He did particularly well in northeastern Pennsylvania, where Scranton and Wilkes-Barre have long anchored a strong Democratic presence.

The state is home turf to former Vice President Joe Biden, who spent his first 10 years in Scranton before his family moved to Wilmington, Delaware. An electric billboard proclaimed "Scranton is Joe Biden country."

Biden's prospects of winning the Democratic presidential nomination surged in the past week after he won South Carolina and then 10 of 14 states on Super Tuesday. Asked about the Democratic race, the Republican Trump said several times that he was "mentally" prepared to take on Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

"I was ready ... and now I have a whole different deal," Trump said at the event, which was scheduled before Biden's resurgence. Trump chose Scranton as the setting.

He blamed Elizabeth Warren, who dropped out of the Democratic race Thursday, for hurting Sanders' chances by not folding her campaign sooner.

Tickets to the town hall were distributed through the Eventbrite website and Fox confirmed questions were selected from people who submitted them via the website. The audience seemed overwhelmingly supportive of Trump, greeting the president with thunderous applause and "USA, USA" chants.

One female questioner told Trump it was "truly an honor" to have him in Scranton. "Just don't tell my husband," she said. Another woman said she's been on the "Trump train" since he announced his candidacy in June 2015. A male Democrat who crossed over to vote for Trump in 2016 shook his head "no" when one of the moderators asked whether Democrats could win back his vote.

Democrats weren't content to cede the stage. A political action committee supporting Democratic candidates planned to run a new ad on Fox News just before and after the town hall in targeted Pennsylvania markets and in Washington featuring a Pennsylvania veteran who voted for Trump in 2016 but no longer supports him. It's part of American Bridge PAC's latest \$10 million wave of ads in key swing states aimed at cutting into Trump's margins with white, working-class voters.

During the town hall, Trump fielded other questions about immigration, health care, federal regulations and more. Asked if he cared about the national debt, which has grown under his tenure despite a chugging economy, Trump said he would focus on the issue in a second term and would like to refinance the debt. He shifted blame to Democratic President Barack Obama.

Trump said he last spoke with his predecessor at the Washington funeral of former President George H.W. Bush. "I sat next to him and I said 'Hello,' and then I said 'Goodbye,'" Trump said, as the audience laughed at his tone. "I didn't like the job he did."

Told that he can't reduce the debt without cutting entitlement programs, like Social Security, Trump said,

"We will be cutting." It was not immediately clear whether he was referring to the mandatory spending programs, discretionary federal spending or both.

But White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham sought to clarify when one report said he was seeking to cut entitlements. "Fake news — POTUS was taking about cutting deficits, NOT entitlements," Grisham tweeted.

During a lightning round, Trump, a self-proclaimed germaphobe, said he's gotten over his aversion to hand-shaking, even during the age of the coronavirus.

"You can't be a politician and not shake hands," the president said. "The bottom line is I shake anybody's hand now. I'm proud of it." He also said he misses being able to walk down the street.

Trump regularly watches Fox News but has been critical of its polling from late February that showed him losing to the five leading Democratic candidates at that point. "Worst Polls, just like in 2016 when they were so far off the mark, are the @FoxNews Polls," Trump tweeted.

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Associated Press writer Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

## Judge sharply rebukes Barr's handling of Mueller report

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday sharply rebuked Attorney General William Barr's handling of the special counsel's Russia report, saying Barr had made "misleading public statements" to spin the investigation's findings in favor of President Donald Trump and had shown a "lack of candor."

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton delivered the criticism in a 23-page order in which he directed the Justice Department to provide him with an unredacted version of the report so that he could decide if any additional information from the document could be publicly disclosed.

The scolding was unusually blunt, with Walton saying Barr had appeared to make a "calculated attempt" to influence public opinion about the report in ways favorable to Trump. The rebuke tapped into lingering criticism of Barr, from Democrats in Congress and special counsel Robert Mueller himself, that he had misrepresented some of the investigation's most damning findings.

The Justice Department in April released a 448-page redacted version of Mueller's report, which examined ties between Russia and the 2016 presidential campaign and potential obstruction of justice by the president. BuzzFeed News and the Electronic Privacy Information Center later sued under the Freedom of Information Act for access to the entire document.

In his ruling, Walton said he needed to review the entire document itself because he could not trust that the Justice Department's redactions of the report were made properly and in good faith. The judge said it would be "disingenuous" to presume the redactions were "not tainted by Attorney General Barr's actions and representations" throughout the process.

The actions cited by the judge include Barr's release last March of a four-page summary of Mueller's findings. The letter said that Mueller had found insufficient evidence to establish a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia to tip the 2016 election, and that Mueller had not reached a determination on the question of whether the president had obstructed to justice.

Mueller complained to Barr in a private letter and phone call that he had not adequately captured the seriousness of his report's conclusions. Mueller stressed in his report, and in later public statements, that he did not exonerate the president and that it was not an option to charge Trump because of longstanding Justice Department policy that sitting presidents cannot be indicted.

Barr, for his part, has defended his handling of the report, calling Mueller's letter to him "a bit snitty." He said it was his prerogative as attorney general to produce a quick summary of the report, which he referred to as "my baby," while his staff spent weeks on redactions.

In his opinion Thursday, the judge said he struggled to reconcile Barr's public characterizations of the report — which included his statement that Mueller found "no collusion" between the Trump campaign and Russia — with what the document actually said.

Those inconsistencies, Walton wrote, "cause the Court to seriously question whether Attorney General Barr made a calculated attempt to influence public discourse about the Mueller Report in favor of President Trump despite certain findings in the redacted version of the Mueller Report to the contrary."

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

## US labs await virus-testing kits promised by administration

By **MATTHEW PERRONE** and **MIKE STOBBE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trump administration officials doubled down on their promise to deliver 1 million tests for the coronavirus this week as states reported limited testing supplies and federal lawmakers expressed doubts about the government's timeline.

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told reporters Thursday that a private manufacturer authorized to make the tests expects to ship the kits to U.S. laboratories by week's end. That amounts to the capacity to test roughly 400,000 people, given that it takes multiple test samples to confirm a result.

The number of U.S. cases has grown rapidly in the last several days after more labs started testing and guidelines for eligibility were expanded. The U.S. tally stood at about 200 cases on Thursday, including 12 deaths — 11 in Washington state and one in California.

The test kits from Iowa-based Integrated DNA Technologies are one part of the government's effort to ramp up testing. But the U.S. has trailed other countries in rolling out tests, because of problems with its test kits and because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initially limited the number of eligible people.

Asked Thursday whether there were enough testing kits, Vice President Mike Pence responded, "I think we are we are ready today but we want to be ready tomorrow."

He acknowledged, "We don't have enough tests today to meet what we anticipate will be the demand going forward." However, he added, "we've made real progress on that in the last several days."

U.S. senators who were briefed on the plan said it could take days or weeks before thousands of medical personnel are trained to run the tests.

Washington state already has "a huge demand" for testing, Dr. Kathy Lofy, state health officer, said Wednesday at a news conference in Seattle. She said lots of people who are sick want to know whether they have the virus.

The state lab planned to ramp up its testing capacity over the next several days. Commercial labs have been urged to start testing too.

The Washington lab is one of about 70 state, city and county testing facilities that are already using the CDC kit, with an expected capacity to test 75,000 people by the end of the week. Azar acknowledged issues with the test's availability.

"Right now, it is a challenge," Azar said. "If you are a doctor and wanting to get someone tested, you need to reach out to your public health lab."

The third part of the government strategy involves spurring private testing companies, such as Quest Diagnostics and LabCorp, to run and develop their own tests. The Food and Drug Administration granted those companies permission to begin developing and using those tests on patients last weekend. Companies can then seek FDA authorization after the fact, submitting details of their test within 15 days. An agency spokeswoman said four testing companies have contacted the agency under the policy.

LabCorp, one of the nation's largest testing companies, said Thursday it has begun offering coronavirus testing to doctors, hospitals and other health care professionals in its network. Patient samples must be sent to a company company lab and results should be available in three to four days. Quest, a rival diagnostics company, said it will begin offering its own test for the virus Monday.

As concerns about the lack of testing capacity have grown, Trump administration officials have repeatedly suggested that policies put in place during the Obama presidency slowed the authorization for private labs run by companies, universities and hospitals. But a former senior FDA official rejected that claim.



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"The law gives the agency the ability to tailor its response in an emergency, which is what we did and is what FDA should be doing now," said Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, an FDA official during the Obama administration who is now a vice dean at the Johns Hopkins-Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Traditionally, the FDA has not regulated tests developed by private labs. During the Obama administration, some public health experts expressed concerns about the lack of oversight of genetic tests for high-risk diseases and conditions. The agency drafted a proposal to oversee some of those tests, but it was never implemented. And it did not apply to the agency's powers during public health emergencies.

For weeks, Sharfstein noted, the only coronavirus test authorized by the FDA was the one developed by the CDC, which had limited availability and accuracy problems. In retrospect, he said, FDA officials could have used their powers to authorize private tests earlier.

"I think one of the challenges they underappreciated was how quickly this virus would spread," Sharfstein said. "So they went small, instead of big."

In early February, the FDA authorized the CDC to send the test kits out. But before they were put into use, officials in most states said the kits proved to be faulty, providing inconclusive results to samples that should have tested positive.

The problem was blamed on one of three reagents used in the testing, but CDC officials have not provided details.

Whatever the reason for the problem, only about a half dozen state and local public health labs had fully functional kits as of early last week. By late last week, the CDC said labs could proceed with testing using just two of the reagents. As of Thursday, state and local labs were able to do tests in 44 states, according to the Association of Public Health Laboratories.

That will be a small part of the total testing that should be coming online, officials said.

Since January, the CDC has been testing specimens at agency labs in Atlanta. As of Wednesday, 1,526 patients had been tested at the CDC, the agency reported.

For a time, testing was limited, in part because CDC guidelines said it should be focused on travelers who had been to mainland China or to patients who had been in close contact with infected people. Last week, the CDC changed its criteria, saying it's also appropriate to test a patient if flu and other respiratory illnesses have been ruled out and no source of exposure has been identified.

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Associated Press Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson in Seattle contributed to this report.

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

## **AP Exclusive: Gun found inside Epstein jail during lockdown**

**By MICHAEL BALSAMO and MICHAEL R. SISK Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal investigators found a loaded gun Thursday that had been smuggled into the jail where Jeffrey Epstein killed himself last summer, following a weeklong lockdown that turned up other contraband and led to a criminal probe into guard misconduct, the federal Bureau of Prisons told The Associated Press.

The handgun was located by Bureau of Prisons officers inside a housing unit at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan, prison officials said in a statement to the AP. It marked a massive breach of protocol and raised serious questions about the security practices in place at the Bureau of Prisons, which is responsible for more than 175,000 federal inmates, and specifically at the jail, which had been billed as one of the most secure in America. Officials have not said where specifically the gun had been found, or how it had been smuggled inside the jail.

Meanwhile, federal prosecutors opened a criminal investigation into potential misconduct by guards, focusing on the flow of contraband into the lockup uncovered during the search for the gun, three people familiar with the matter told the AP. They were not authorized to discuss the investigation and spoke on

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condition of anonymity.

Attorney General William Barr named a new director last week to take charge of the agency, which has been the subject of intense scrutiny since Epstein took his own life while in custody in August. But the agency has been plagued for years by serious misconduct, violence and a chronic staffing shortage.

The investigation and search at the Manhattan facility began last week after officials received information that a gun may have been smuggled into the lockup and placed the jail on lockdown "in order to protect the public, staff and inmates until a comprehensive search could be completed," the agency said in a statement.

Since then, officials have been keeping inmates locked down in their cells without access to their lawyers and canceled all visitation at the jail, which houses about 700 inmates. In the past few days, officers have searched the facility and uncovered a sizable amount of contraband, including cellphones, narcotics and homemade weapons, the Bureau of Prisons said.

"All of these items pose a significant threat to the safety and security of the facility as well as the public," the agency said in a statement.

Investigators were planning to continue searching the jail throughout the night Thursday, looking for any additional contraband, and the lockdown was expected to continue. Federal prosecutors are trying to determine how the it has all been entering the facility and the Bureau of Prisons said it notified the Justice Department's inspector general and the FBI.

"The BOP is committed to the safety of staff, inmates and the public while continuing to ensure that those responsible for misconduct and criminal activity are held accountable," the statement said.

All visitors and inmates are searched before entering the facility and go through metal detectors. They are supposed to leave personal belongings outside the jail. All mail is also screened by correctional staff.

The Bureau of Prisons said the jail has been on "modified operations" because of the investigation and didn't provide an estimate for when normal operations could resume. Defense attorneys have raised concerns because the jail houses pretrial inmates while their cases are ongoing.

David Patton, executive director and chief attorney of the Federal Defenders of New York, said it's a violation of inmates' constitutional rights to deny them visits with their lawyers. He also said it has affected legal proceedings.

"Sentencings are being delayed. Hearings are being delayed," Patton said. "But the MCC acts as though it's perfectly fine for them to just shut down the entire institution to look for contraband. It's just not acceptable. They've got to be able to walk and chew gum at the same time."

The agency said Thursday that it arranged for additional staff from other parts of the U.S. to assist in the investigation and ensure there is appropriate staffing at the jail. The agency said it "has maintained communication with stakeholders as needed" and held a meeting with the chief federal judge and public defender in Manhattan, along with prosecutors, the Marshals Service and probation officials.

The agency also said it has discussed a plan to resume legal visits at the jail on Friday and expects to allow full legal visitation by next week. Visits with family members could resume as soon as this week, officials added.

"The Bureau has been working closely with the stakeholders throughout this period to ensure those defendants with imminent court deadlines have the legal visits with their legal counsel as needed," the statement said.

Inmates are being locked down for 24 hours a day, and lawyers have been told that on some units the prisoners are being denied showers and being given cold meals in their cells. One inmate reported receiving peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for every meal since last Thursday.

The bureau said inmates are on a periodic shower rotation, except for those in special housing units, who remain on a regular schedule.

"All inmates have access to medical care and appointments and medical staff continue normal rounds on every floor," the Bureau of Prisons said.

It is just the latest crisis at the jail, which houses a number of high-profile inmates, including attorney

Michael Avenatti, who gained fame by representing porn actress Stormy Daniels in lawsuits involving President Donald Trump. Federal prosecutors allege that the two correctional officers assigned to watch Epstein's unit were snoozing and shopping on the internet when he took his own life in his cell in August, and later forged records to make it look like they checked in on him.

Sisak reported from New York. Associated Press writer Tom Hays in New York contributed to this report.

## **Klobuchar calls for independent review of murder case**

**By ROBIN McDOWELL and MICHAEL REZENDES ASSOCIATED PRESS**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — US Sen. Amy Klobuchar asked a top Minnesota prosecutor Thursday to initiate an independent investigation into the case of Myon Burrell, a black teen sentenced to life after an 11-year-old black girl was killed by a stray bullet.

"As you are aware, significant concerns about the evidence and police investigation have been raised by a press investigation, by members of the Hennepin County community, and by Myon's family," she wrote in a letter to Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman.

In calling for an "independent investigation and an independent review," Klobuchar yielded to increasing community pressure to reopen a case that dogged her Democratic presidential primary run. A yearlong Associated Press investigation published last month uncovered major flaws in the 2002 case, raising questions as to whether the 16-year-old blamed in the little girl's death may have been wrongfully convicted.

Klobuchar made her decision after meeting with Burrell's family on Tuesday.

"As I told them," she wrote, "I believe that if any injustice was done in the quest for justice for Tyesha Edward, it must be addressed."

Freeman — who in recent weeks has doubled down, saying his office believes the right man was convicted — issued a response Thursday that seemed to indicate he was satisfied with an internal review being carried out by his office. He said any new information about the case should be handed over.

Edwards was killed by a stray bullet while doing her homework at her dining room table. Burrell has served 17 years in prison for her killing, all the while insisting he is innocent.

The AP story was published while Klobuchar's campaign was gaining steam. But she cancelled a rally in her home state two days before the Minnesota Democratic primary after around 100 protesters took over the stage, waving signs and chanting "Free Myon!" Less than 24 hours later, she ended her campaign and endorsed former Vice President Joe Biden.

Burrell was convicted twice, once when Klobuchar was the chief prosecutor. After the verdict was reversed, he was convicted a second time under Freeman's supervision.

Throughout her political career, Klobuchar has used Burrell's conviction to trumpet her commitment to racial justice but has faced increasing criticism from the African American community in Minnesota and national media since the AP investigation was published.

Klobuchar responded by saying, repeatedly, that any new evidence, or flawed old evidence, should be reviewed. But her letter to Freeman was her first concrete step toward making that happen. In her letter, she also said she supports sentencing review efforts taking place in other parts of the country, "to allow the system to look back at sentences to ensure that they are just."

Last month, Freeman released a statement expressing confidence in the work of police and prosecutors in Burrell's case.

The head of the NAACP in Minnesota, Leslie Redmond, praised Klobuchar's decision Thursday.

"The acknowledgment that this case warrants a review is the first step to righting the wrongs that were committed against Myon and the victim's family," she said. "As the calls for an independent investigation grow, we expect that Attorney Mike Freeman will have the courage to assure justice and liberty is fairly granted."

## Warren ends presidential campaign, centering race on 2 men

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elizabeth Warren ended her once-promising presidential campaign on Thursday after failing to finish higher than third place in any of the 18 states that have voted so far. While the Massachusetts senator said she was proud of her bid, she was also candid in expressing disappointment that a formerly diverse field is essentially now down to two men.

"All those little girls who are going to have to wait four more years," Warren told reporters outside her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as her voice cracked. "That's going to be hard."

Known for having "a plan for that," Warren electrified progressives for much of the past year by releasing reams of policy proposals that addressed such issues as maternal health care, college debt, criminal justice reform and the new coronavirus. She planned to pay for many of her ambitious proposals with a 2 cent tax on fortunes worth more than \$50 million, an idea that prompted chants of "Two cents! Two cents!" at her rallies.

But that energy — and an impressive organization — didn't translate into support once voters started making their decisions last month. She failed to capture any of the 14 states that voted on Super Tuesday and finished an embarrassing third in Massachusetts.

The Democratic contest now centers on Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is trying to rally progressives, and former Vice President Joe Biden, who is appealing to moderates. They are both white men in their late 70s, a fact that is prompting soul-searching for some Democrats who heralded the historic diversity that characterized the early days of the primary.

"I think we all have to really interrogate why being for someone other than someone who looks like almost every other president we've had, in terms of age and gender, why everything else is seen as risky," said Cecile Richards, the former president of Planned Parenthood.

While she said she will rally behind whoever emerges as the Democratic nominee, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also lamented the challenges facing women in politics.

"Every time I get introduced as the most powerful woman, I almost cry because I wish that were not true," she said Thursday. "I so wish that we had a woman president of the United States."

Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard is still in the race but faces steep odds and has won just two delegates in her quest for the nomination.

Although she's no longer a presidential contender, Warren will likely remain a force in Democratic politics and could play a prominent role in a future administration if the party wins the White House. Clearly aware of her power, Warren didn't rush to endorse either Sanders or Biden.

Warren suggested Thursday that she would take her time before deciding whom to back. She didn't endorse Sanders in 2016 — something that infuriated some of his supporters — and only backed Hillary Clinton after she effectively won the nomination.

Top advisers who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations indicated Warren wouldn't wait that long in 2020.

Sanders wasted little time making an appeal to Warren backers, saying in Vermont on Thursday, "I would simply say to her supporters out there, of which there are millions: We are opening the door to you. We'd love you to come on board."

But the divisions among Democrats run deep. Toni Van Pelt, the president of the National Organization for Women, urged Warren against siding with Sanders and noted Biden's involvement in the passage of the Violence Against Women Act.

"She has a lot of leverage right now. We do trust her to make the right decisions on how to proceed. But we'd like her not to rush into this," Van Pelt said. "Sanders doesn't have a record. He's really, as far as we know, done next to nothing for women and for our issues and for the things that are our priorities."

After a strong summer, Warren's poll numbers began to slip after a series of debates in which she repeatedly refused to answer direct questions about if she'd have to raise taxes on the middle class to pay for universal, government-funded health care under a "Medicare for All" program. Warren's top advisers were

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slow to catch on that not providing more details looked to voters like a major oversight for a candidate who proudly had so many other policy plans.

When Warren finally moved to correct the problem, her support eroded further. She moved away from a full endorsement of Medicare for All, announcing that she'd work with Congress to transition the country to the program over three years. Biden and other rivals pounced, calling Warren a flip-flopper, and her standing with progressives sagged as Sanders stood by his unwavering support for government-run health care immediately.

After long avoiding direct conflict, Warren and Sanders clashed in January after she said Sanders had suggested during a private meeting in 2018 that a woman couldn't win the White House. Sanders denied that, but Warren refused to shake his outstretched hand after a debate in Iowa — which only further hurt her polling numbers.

By the time the campaign turned to the South Carolina primary late last month, an outside political group began pouring millions of dollars into television advertising on her behalf. That forced Warren to say that, although she rejected super PACs, she'd accept their help as long as other candidates did. Her campaign, meanwhile, shifted strategy again, saying it was betting on a contested convention.

Warren said outside her house on Thursday that "gender in this race, that is a trick question," since any woman running for office who acknowledges sexism is derided as a "whiner" and those who don't aren't accepting reality. But she nonetheless suggested her road might have been harder than that of the male candidates.

"I was told at the beginning of this whole undertaking that there are two lanes, a progressive lane that Bernie Sanders is the incumbent for and a moderate lane that Joe Biden is the incumbent for," she said. "And there's no room for anyone else in this. I thought that wasn't right, but, evidently, I was wrong."

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Associated Press writers Steve Peoples in New York and Laurie Kellman in Washington contributed to this report.

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

## **Insurers will cover virus tests, but check if costs apply**

**By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and TOM MURPHY Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A day after Vice President Mike Pence assured Americans that lab tests for coronavirus would be covered by private and government health insurance, that promise appears to be less than airtight.

The bottom line: Medicare, Medicaid, and "Obamacare" insurance plans will cover the tests, officials said Thursday. Major insurers also said they will cover such tests. But people with employer-provided insurance should check with their plan because copays and deductibles may apply. State health departments will test for free.

"It's a common type of test, just like you get a swab for strep throat," Seema Verma, head of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, told reporters on Capitol Hill. "I think private insurance companies, it does depend on coverage. But like I said, this is something that is commonly covered."

Doctors and insurers stress that patients potentially exposed to coronavirus should not avoid getting tested because of concerns about potential costs.

The board of directors of an industry group that represents big insurance companies said Thursday that member plans will cover tests ordered by a doctor. "We will take action to ease network, referral, and prior authorization requirements and/or waive patient cost sharing," America's Health Insurance Plans said in a statement.

Translation: Call your insurance plan to see what particular steps it's taking and whether you qualify for no-cost testing.

In Washington state, where at least 11 people have died, Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler moved

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to dispel doubts Thursday by ordering insurers in the state not to charge copays or deductibles to people who require coronavirus tests. The directive applies only to plans regulated by the state.

On Wednesday, Pence made what's now looking like a work-in-progress seem like a done deal.

"With regard to the cost, let me be very clear," Pence said at a White House briefing. The Health and Human Services Department "has designated the coronavirus test as an essential health benefit. That means by definition, it's covered in the private health insurance of every American as well as covered by Medicare and Medicaid."

Some independent experts were flummoxed, uncertain that the government has the authority to order blanket coverage of a medical service.

"I'm not sure what he means," said Karen Pollitz of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. "I can't point to anything that would back that up."

"Essential health benefits" is a term used in the Affordable Care Act to describe broad categories of care. Under the health law, preventive services have to be covered at no cost to the patient. But that designation requires a formal evaluation by an expert task force, and there's no indication that has happened.

And the coronavirus test might be classified as a diagnostic test, not a preventive service. Usually, patients pay some of the cost for diagnostic tests, through copays and deductibles.

It's unlikely that a patient will receive only one test for coronavirus. A doctor also might order a chest X-ray or tests for bacterial pneumonia or the flu, also respiratory diseases, depending on the patient's symptoms.

Administration officials say coronavirus tests should be widely available in the next few days, and Verma said the government wants the broadest possible access. Responding to a question about concerns, she said, "We're going to continue to look at that, that if it becomes an issue, I would say that's something we want to make sure people have access to tests."

With costs remaining an unresolved issue, Pollitz points out that the annual deductible for an employee covered by workplace insurance averages \$1,655, and double that for families. Most deductibles reset every January, and consumers generally don't satisfy theirs until May or later. Deductibles are higher for individual insurance plans.

About half of all insured adults in the United States worry about affording their deductible, according to a recent poll from the Kaiser Foundation.

Research shows that people with deductible worries don't just avoid wasteful or unnecessary care, said Sabrina Corlette, co-director of Georgetown University's Center on Health Insurance Reforms. "They're actually not getting care they should be getting," she said.

Plus there are an estimated 28 million uninsured people in the United States.

The American Academy of Family Physicians says uninsured people should contact their local health department or a community health center for help. Call first, in case officials need to prepare for a visit from someone who may have the virus.

Insured patients who are worried about bills should contact their doctor's office or their insurer. They may be able to connect patients with a nurse or arrange a telemedicine visit to help decide whether an office visit is even needed.

Insurers also may be able to lay out all options for care and what a visit may cost according to a patient's coverage.

Insurers may also ease requirements such as a large deductible payment for some care.

"Our first priority is to ensure our members have access to the diagnostic and treatment care they need, and we are continuing to work with our customers and policy-makers on this public health challenge," said Eric Hausman, a spokesman for the insurer UnitedHealthcare.

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Murphy reported from Indianapolis. Associated Press video journalist Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

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Follow Tom Murphy on Twitter: @thpmurphy

## Pop star Katy Perry reveals a happy secret — she's pregnant

By The Associated Press undefined

Katy Perry has revealed she's pregnant in a very show business way.

The 35-year-old pop star showed off her growing baby bump at the end of the video for her latest song "Never Worn White."

On Instagram, Perry said her pregnancy is "probably the longest secret" she has "ever had to keep." The news was confirmed Thursday by Perry's label, Capitol Music Group.

The baby will be Perry's first, and the second for her fiancé, Orlando Bloom, who has a 9-year-old son, Flynn, with ex-wife Miranda Kerr.

Perry joked that she was relieved to share the news. "So glad I don't have to suck it in anymore," she wrote on Twitter. "Or carry around a big purse."

Civil rights: The road to Bloody Sunday began 30 miles away

By GARY FIELDS Associated Press

MARION, Ala. (AP) — Della Simpson Maynor remembers the mounted police officer cracking her elbow with a baton. She recalls the panicked marchers unable to escape the onslaught, and the scuffle between officers and a young church deacon who was trying to protect his mother and grandfather. Most of all, she remembers the gunshot.

Two weeks before Bloody Sunday — the clash in Selma on March 7, 1965, that helped propel passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 — there was a march in this small town 30 miles away.

What happened in Marion is now a less-familiar episode in the civil rights movement, a footnote in the textbooks. But the blood spilled here would send hundreds of people from Marion and the surrounding county to Selma and the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where history was made.

"Starting the story in Selma is like reading a book by starting in the middle and not going back to the beginning so you can get the total picture of what actually happened in 1965," said Perry County Commissioner Alfred Turner Jr. "Without the events occurring in Marion, there's no way you would have gotten the same results or the optics of Bloody Sunday."

The protest in Marion was sparked by the arrest of a minister who was leading efforts to register black people to vote. It ended with the fatal shooting of a 26-year-old black church deacon, Jimmie Lee Jackson, by a state trooper.

As the 55th anniversary of Bloody Sunday approaches, people here say they want the full story remembered.

The road to Marion, and eventually to Selma, began at the White House months before.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, his lieutenant Andrew Young and other activists sat down with President Lyndon Johnson after passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Johnson "told Dr. King, 'I know you need voting rights. I wish I could do it, but I just don't have the power,'" Young recalled, adding Johnson seemed depressed.

When they left, King said, "We've got to figure out how to get the president some power," according to Young, who would go on to become a congressman, Atlanta mayor and U.N. ambassador. "I said, 'That Nobel Prize you won didn't come with an army.'"

King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference chose to throw its support behind the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and local groups that had been focusing on voter registration in Alabama, where they were holding protests, sit-ins and boycotts.

The Rev. James Orange of the SCLC organized protests in Marion and Perry County, and hundreds of people were regularly arrested and jailed. When students began skipping school to join the marches, authorities arrested Orange on Feb. 18, 1965, for contributing to the delinquency of minors.

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Former Perry County Circuit Clerk Mary Moore, a second-grader at the time, said the arrest was hypocritical on the part of the white authorities, noting that black students back then often missed school because farmers needed them to pick cotton.

Rumors circulated that Orange would be lynched behind bars. That was by no means a far-fetched fear. "Black folks in jail ended up dead. That's the way it was then," said 83-year-old Elijah Rollins, then owner of one of the town's funeral homes. "It was just tradition."

Townpeople planned a night protest march from Zion Methodist Church to the jail on the next block. State and local police were waiting for them outside, where the streetlight was either shot out or turned off. With darkness came chaos.

Rollins had skipped the church meeting but heard the commotion, and when he went outside, "a lot of people were getting the hell beat out of them."

Maynor, then 14, watched as a pastor started off the protest by kneeling to pray, as was customary. Police officers told him to get up and clubbed him when he didn't, she said. "When I saw that, I was terrified," she recalled. Seconds later she was hit as she raised her arm to protect her head. An officer on horseback "was whaling down on me."

"They didn't know what your age was. They didn't care. They swung at everybody," she said.

Somewhere in the melee, Cager Lee, 82, and his daughter Viola Jackson were attacked by police. Lee's grandson, Jimmie Lee Jackson, came to help them and grappled with officers inside a local hangout, Macks Cafe.

"A few minutes later you heard the gunshot," Maynor said.

Jackson had a stomach wound and was taken to the black hospital in Selma, where he died eight days later. Rollins, who heard him screaming in pain two days before, picked up the body.

SCLC and local leaders began talking almost immediately about taking his body from Marion to Alabama's capital, Montgomery, but that idea was abandoned. They decided to lay Jackson to rest at a Marion-area cemetery at a funeral attended by King himself, and later march to the capital from Selma, a more logical staging point.

"We will take this problem to Montgomery and leave it on Wallace's doorstep," King told Young, referring to Alabama's arch-segregationist governor, George Wallace.

Plans were made for the 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery, but on the day chosen, King was back home in Atlanta, and the federal observers who normally shadowed him and presumably would have served as a deterrent against violence weren't there when hundreds of marchers with backpacks gathered at the bridge.

State troopers and local police were waiting for them and attacked with clubs and tear gas.

A terrified Terrance Chestnut, 6 at the time, was there with his father, Selma civil rights attorney J.L. Chestnut Jr.

"I saw a cop hit a guy across the jaw with a billy club. I could hear the crack," he said. "It was a really bad scene, something I don't care to remember but something I can't erase from my mind."

The TV footage and other images from that day shocked the country and helped lead to the landmark federal law protecting the right of African Americans to vote.

The Marion marchers would not recognize the community leadership now.

The state trooper who shot Jackson, James Bonard Fowler, was prosecuted decades later by Perry County's first black district attorney. Fowler pleaded guilty in 2010 to manslaughter and served five months in jail. The mayor, police chief, sheriff and numerous other public officials in Marion and Perry County also are African American.

A marble monument to the civil rights movement has been erected in front of Zion Methodist with the names of the people who participated in those protests. The county jail where Orange was held is closed, but there are plans to turn it into a museum. On the courthouse square is another monument, telling Jackson's story and adding Marion to the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. It was put up in 2015.

In a letter to the Department of Interior supporting Marion's inclusion, Rep. Terri Sewell of Alabama cited the role Jackson's death played in the Selma march, saying that nearly 300 of the more than 500 people



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who participated on Bloody Sunday were from Marion.

"They paved the way and gave the push to change the world," said Marion Mayor Dexter Hinton.

In the years afterward, Jackson's mother "was never right again after Jimmie was killed," said his cousin Fairest Cureton, 63.

"Jimmie was one of the nicest, most mannerable persons that I knew. He always had a smile on his face," said another cousin, 76-year-old Julia Cash, "and what was most impressive is he always took time for older people."

In fact, according to his family, Jackson was too sick to come to the church meeting that night in Marion but drove his grandfather and mother there and was waiting to take them home.

As for Orange, he went on take part in the Bloody Sunday march and spent his life fighting for civil rights and others causes, believing in "this thing called equality," said his daughter, Jamida Orange. He died in 2008.

"If anybody tells you it was anything but the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson that provoked that Selma-to-Montgomery march," she said, "they are doing a revisionist history."

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Associated Press researchers Rhonda Shafner and Randy Herschaft in New York contributed to this report.

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## **Bloomberg's hope for Super Tuesday splash lands in Pacific**

**By MICHELLE L. PRICE and FILI SAGAPOLUTELE Associated Press**

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP) — What does more than \$500 million get you? For Mike Bloomberg, it was 175 winning votes in this U.S. territory — a group of Pacific islands with lush vegetation and stunning coastlines some 7,200 miles (11,600 kilometers) from where he once served as New York City's mayor.

Bloomberg's lone primary victory in American Samoa, population 55,000, was an unorthodox and inauspicious culmination to a much-hyped but short-lived Democratic presidential campaign marked by unprecedented spending designed to make a splash in Super Tuesday states.

In the middle of the Pacific Ocean, he did it.

Bloomberg on Tuesday won half of the 351 Democrats voting in the American Samoa caucus, picking up four delegates before he dropped out of the race and endorsed Joe Biden on Wednesday.

U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii, who was born in American Samoa, received two delegates. Bloomberg's decisive win over the local-born Gabbard was startling, but the Hawaii congresswoman had a late start campaigning in the territory compared with the billionaire.

Bloomberg installed seven full-time staff members in American Samoa in recent weeks — more than any other campaign — and bought up billboards and ads on television, online, in print and on the radio — including Samoan language ads.

He even picked up an endorsement Monday from Samoan Chief Fa'alagiga Nina Tua'au-Glaude, who cited Bloomberg's work spending millions to fight climate change that the chief says will be devastating to the islands.

Patrick Ti'a Reid, a local Bloomberg staffer, said the campaign set up voter events where they pitched his policy plans to locals and helped organize a trash cleanup at a local coastal park over the weekend.

Bloomberg tweeted a photo of two people in campaign T-shirts doing the work.

"Our incredible team in American Samoa, who calls themselves 'Protectors of the Earth,' not only got out the vote but took time out of their day to clean up a park," Bloomberg wrote Tuesday, hours before getting disappointing results in other Super Tuesday contests.

Nathaniel Savali, a Democrat and staunch Bloomberg supporter, said he was most impressed by Bloomberg's decision to place staff on the island and make a serious effort to win support.

"They were mindful of our sensitivities to cultural preservation and relayed back to the campaign head-

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quarters the concerns of our people," Savali said. "They also offered solutions with the promise that the U.S. territories would not be forgotten under a Bloomberg presidency."

Tony Langkilde, who helped campaign for Gabbard, said her campaign began in earnest there just three days before Super Tuesday.

"I got a call from Tulsi's father in Honolulu," Langkilde said. "We actually started Friday to work on a local campaign."

Langkilde said he met with Gabbard's brother, who lives in American Samoa, and began putting together print and radio ads in both English and Samoan. They printed shirts, visors and launched a social media campaign that Langkilde said garnered a lot of attention. Gabbard sent a video to rally her supporters.

"During the caucus, there were supporters there coming in to support a local girl, but it's just that we started late," Langkilde said. "If we started campaigning much earlier, I think the response would have been much greater."

It's not the first time the islands have delivered a win to someone other than the candidate who boasted a cultural link to the Pacific. In 2008, Hillary Clinton gained Democrats' support in American Samoa over Barack Obama, who was born in Hawaii and whose roots supporters played up.

The islands between Hawaii and New Zealand include a land area roughly the size of Washington, D.C., where tuna fishing and processing is a major driver of the economy and most residents are bilingual, Christian and Pacific Islander.

The territory's residents are U.S. nationals but not citizens, which leaves them unable to vote in presidential elections but allows them to participate in presidential primary contests run by political parties.

Though no White House hopeful made a campaign stop in the islands and its capital of Pago Pago, at least an 18-hour flight from Washington, D.C., Joe Biden visited four years ago.

While serving as Obama's vice president in 2016, Biden made a brief stop in Pago Pago while his plane was refueling as he headed from Hawaii to Australia and New Zealand. Biden was met by a local delegation led by the governor, shook hands and posed for photos.

The 90-minute visit doesn't seem to have helped his campaign much four years later. He placed fourth in the territory's caucuses Tuesday.

Price reported from Las Vegas.

This story has been corrected to show that Bloomberg got four delegates and Gabbard got two per a corrected count from the Democratic Party of American Samoa, which said it had miscalculated the delegate allocation.

## Schumer: I 'should not have used' critical words on justices

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said Thursday that he "should not have used the words I used" when he declared at a rally in front of the Supreme Court that two justices would "pay the price" for their decision in an abortion case.

Republicans chastised Schumer for the remark and Chief Justice John Roberts in a rare rebuke said the words were "inappropriate" and "dangerous." Speaking on the Senate floor Thursday, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., called Schumer's words "astonishingly reckless and completely irresponsible" and said they could have "horrific unintended consequences." Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, floated the idea of a censure.

Schumer directed the comments at Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh while a significant abortion case was being argued at the high court.

"You have released the whirlwind, and you will pay the price. You will not know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions," Schumer said, naming the two appointees of President Donald Trump, according to video of the rally.

Schumer did not back down from the comments on Wednesday evening, with his spokesman criticiz-

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ing Roberts as not remaining impartial. But Schumer clarified the next morning that he meant political consequences for the justices, not physical ones. He said it was a "gross distortion" to imply otherwise.

"I'm from Brooklyn, we speak in strong language," Schumer said. "I shouldn't have used the words I did, but in no way was I making a threat. I never, never would do such a thing. And Leader McConnell knows that, and Republicans who are busy manufacturing outrage over these comments know that too."

He said he made the comments because he feels passionately about protecting abortion rights.

"I feel so deeply, the anger of women all across America," Schumer said. "About Senate Republicans and the courts, working hand in glove to take down Roe v Wade."

The dust-up was the latest in a series of politically charged moments around the Supreme Court — and those two justices, in particular. Republicans are still nursing resentments from Kavanaugh's contentious confirmation after he faced decades-old allegations of sexual assault. Democrats are still angry about McConnell's 2016 decision not to confirm a new justice after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia while President Barack Obama was still in office. Trump nominated Gorsuch for that position after he became president.

Schumer spoke for less than four minutes at the rally Wednesday, just as arguments got underway in the first major abortion case since Gorsuch and Kavanaugh joined the court. The Democrat invoked the two justices whose nominations he opposed, giving a thumbs-down gesture to provoke boos from the crowd.

His reference to a "whirlwind" hearkened back to Kavanaugh's own passionate opening statement at a 2018 confirmation hearing. The judge lashed out at Democrats who had criticized him as the panel reviewed the sexual assault allegations.

"I fear the country will reap the whirlwind," Kavanaugh said then.

Hours after the rally where Schumer appeared, Roberts issued the statement singling out his comments. "Justices know that criticism comes with the territory, but threatening statements of this sort from the highest levels of government are not only inappropriate, they are dangerous," Roberts said.

It was only the second time the chief justice has responded to criticism of individual judges. In 2018, Roberts rebuked Trump for the president's criticism of an "Obama judge."

But Roberts has otherwise stayed silent, including in recent weeks when Trump questioned the impartiality of Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor, and of U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson, who presided over the trial and sentencing of Trump ally Roger Stone.

Likewise, Senate Republicans did not criticize those comments. McConnell himself came under criticism in August when his campaign tweeted a photo of signs that were shaped as tombstones with names of Judge Merrick Garland, Obama's nominee to replace Scalia, and McConnell's likely 2020 election opponent, Democrat Amy McGrath.

Asked about Schumer's comments, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Schumer had said his words were not appropriate, and "I support him on that."

The justices are weighing a Louisiana law requiring doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. A federal judge found that just one of Louisiana's three abortion clinics would remain open if the law is allowed to take effect.

Roberts is expected to be the deciding vote. The court struck down a similar law in 2016, before Kavanaugh and Gorsuch joined the court.

## Virus, what virus? Italy's "nonni" step in as schools close

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italian grandparents — "nonni" as they are called — were pulled in two contradictory directions on Thursday — and as usual the grandchildren won out.

In a decree that took effect Thursday, the Italian government urged the elderly and infirm to stay at home and restricted visits to nursing homes and assisted living facilities to contain the spread of coronavirus among those most vulnerable to it. But Italian grandparents were out in force at the nation's playgrounds and parks, stepping in as last-minute baby-sitters after the government canceled school nationwide on Wednesday.

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The government move left 8.4 million students with no place to go for the next two weeks.

Italy, the epicenter of the outbreak in Europe, has the world's oldest population after Japan, and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus. The 148 people who have died so far in Italy were all elderly or had other health problems.

"It's an absolute paradox!" said Mauro Benedetti, a 73-year-old retiree who was called in to look after his grandson Thursday while his granddaughter had her horseback riding lesson. "They tell us to stay home. How can we help our kids and grandkids at the same time?"

"Grandparents are now at risk," he declared.

Italian nonni have long been the go-to caregivers for their grandchildren, often taking the place of expensive nannies or daycare when both parents work. Many are also relatively young, given that some Italians can retire in their 50s or 60s. They often stay on to help out even when the grandchildren reach school-age, since classes often get out at 2 p.m., well before any parents can get home from work.

But the emergency school closures put families in a bind. A small sampling of Roman playgrounds indicated that the measures had the unintended boomerang effect of sending the elderly out on duty at the nation's sandboxes, swings and jungle gyms. Not to mention the fact that they were fully engaged with young children, those infamous germ carriers.

"Practically speaking, if there weren't the grandparents, it would have been a big mess," said a man named Roberto who took his granddaughter to the Santa Maria Liberatrice playground in Rome's Testaccio neighborhood. "Those families where both the mother and the father work, it is really a problem."

Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte justified the extraordinary measure of closing schools and universities nationwide until March 15 by warning that Italy might not have enough intensive care units to treat patients if the virus continues its "exponential" spread.

Already, ICU beds are in short supply in hard-hit Lombardy, which has 2,251 of Italy's 3,858 positive patients.

Dr. Franco Locatelli, head of Italy's national scientific council on health, said the measures adopted by the government sought to reduce contagion and protect the "fragile population" of the sick and elderly, since all studies say they are most at risk of fatal complications from the virus.

"The care of this population of patients is a fundamental objective for our country," Locatelli told reporters Thursday.

Lorenzo Romano was among those on duty, making lunch for his grandchildren who were home from school. Despite the risks, he looked on the bright side.

"Altogether it makes me happy, because then I have them around me more," he said.

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Is Idaho turning a little blue? Primary might provide clues

By KEITH RIDLER Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Idaho last year was the nation's fastest-growing state, with close to 37,000 new residents boosting its population to nearly 1.8 million.

In the past decade, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the deeply conservative state has seen a population jump of more than 200,000. Studies indicate many have come from liberal-leaning California, Oregon and Washington.

But are those new residents bringing blue-state politics? Or are they Republicans fleeing the coast for conservative Idaho?

An answer could emerge Tuesday when Idaho holds its presidential primaries. Democrats are using a primary for the first time after picking Sen. Bernie Sanders over Hillary Clinton at a caucus in 2016. President Barack Obama handily won the Democratic contest in Idaho over Clinton in 2008.

President Donald Trump is expected to have little difficulty winning the Republican primary or the state

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in the November general election. The last time Idaho voted for a Democratic presidential candidate was Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

Still, officials say switching to a Democratic primary this year could significantly increase the number of participants, and play a role in the outcome.

Former vice president Joseph Biden drew more than 100 donors at an Idaho event in August. Sen. Elizabeth Warren had scheduled a visit this weekend but ended her campaign Thursday.

"We hope that Idaho continues to grow in diversity and political affiliation, and that will strengthen our party and candidates," said Lindsey Johnson, spokeswoman for the Idaho Democratic Party.

Jaclyn Kettler, a Boise State University political scientist, said it appears Democrats, in general, are moving to urban areas and Republicans to more rural areas, continuing the urban-rural divide between Democrats and Republicans prevalent in states in the U.S. West.

"We've definitely seen some areas like Boise becoming bluer in the last few years," she said. "More conservative voters are moving into Canyon County and northern Idaho."

Yet Democrats see the possibility of a bluish tinge appearing in Idaho following its 2.1% population increase last year. The House, for example, went from 11 to 14 Democrats in the 2018 election. Democrats flipped four urban district seats, but lost an urban district in northern Idaho after the incumbent Democrat ran for governor.

Voter-driven ballot initiatives have also become a major focus in the state. After years of inaction by Republican lawmakers, Idaho residents in 2018 with 62% approved an initiative expanding Medicaid, a move opposed by conservative lawmakers.

In response, Republicans in the House and Senate last year tried to make the initiative process nearly impossible, so they could head off future left-leaning measures such as raising the minimum wage and legalizing marijuana. But Republican Gov. Brad Little vetoed the legislation amid concerns a federal court could rule such restrictions unconstitutional and dictate the state's initiative process.

Overall, though, Republicans hold all five statewide elected offices, including governor, and hold supermajorities in both the Idaho House and Senate. Both of Idaho's U.S. House seats and both U.S. Senate seats are also occupied by Republicans.

Democratic House Minority Leader Ilana Rubel of Boise said she's not sure which way the "in-migration is tilting," but she thinks it will be a wash.

GOP Senate President Pro-Tem Brent Hill of Rexburg, meanwhile, noted that for the most part, Republicans are unconcerned about a possible change in demographics because it appears most of those moving to Idaho tend to vote Republican.

"It's hard to know for sure, but sometimes we kid about people coming from more liberal states," said Hill, who is wrapping up 20 years as a state senator after the Legislature adjourns this spring. "One of the reasons they came was to get away from that."

Idaho voters can currently register or switch parties right up to the presidential primary. Legislation will prevent that from happening in future primaries, however.

Idaho holds its state primary on May 19. This year, the primary will include a U.S. Senate seat, both U.S. House seats, and all 105 seats in the Legislature.

## Gadgets for tech giants made with coerced Uighur labor

By **DAKE KANG** and **YANAN WANG** Associated Press

NANCHANG, China (AP) — In a lively Muslim quarter of Nanchang city, a sprawling Chinese factory turns out computer screens, cameras and fingerprint scanners for a supplier to international tech giants such as Apple and Lenovo. Throughout the neighborhood, women in headscarves stroll through the streets, and Arabic signs advertise halal supermarkets and noodle shops.

Yet the mostly Muslim ethnic Uighurs who labor in the factory are isolated within a walled compound that is fortified with security cameras and guards at the entrance. Their forays out are limited to rare chaperoned trips, they are not allowed to worship or cover their heads, and they must attend special classes in

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the evenings, according to former and current workers and shopkeepers in the area.

The connection between OFILM, the supplier that owns the Nanchang factory, and the tech giants is the latest sign that companies outside China are benefiting from coercive labor practices imposed on the Uighurs, a Turkic ethnic group, and other minorities.

Over the past four years, the Chinese government has detained more than a million people from the far west Xinjiang region, most of them Uighurs, in internment camps and prisons where they go through forced ideological and behavioral re-education. China has long suspected the Uighurs of harboring separatist tendencies because of their distinct culture, language and religion.

When detainees "graduate" from the camps, documents show, many are sent to work in factories. A dozen Uighurs and Kazakhs told the AP they knew people who were sent by the state to work in factories in China's east, known as inner China — some from the camps, some plucked from their families, some from vocational schools. Most were sent by force, although in a few cases it wasn't clear if they consented.

Workers are often enrolled in classes where state-sponsored teachers give lessons in Mandarin, China's dominant language, or politics and "ethnic unity." Conditions in the jobs vary in terms of pay and restrictions.

At the OFILM factory, Uighurs are paid the same as other workers but otherwise treated differently, according to residents of the neighborhood. They are not allowed to leave or pray — unlike the Hui Muslim migrants also working there, who are considered less of a threat by the Chinese government.

"They don't let them worship inside," said a Hui Muslim woman who worked in the factory for several weeks alongside the Uighurs. "They don't let them come out."

"If you're Uighur, you're only allowed outside twice a month," a small business owner who spoke with the workers confirmed. The AP is not disclosing the names of those interviewed near the factory out of concern for possible retribution. "The government chose them to come to OFILM, they didn't choose it."

The Chinese government says the labor program is a way to train Uighurs and other minorities and give them jobs. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday called concern over possible coerced labor under the program "groundless" and "slander."

However, experts say that like the internment camps, the program is part of a broader assault on the Uighur culture, breaking up social and family links by sending people far from their homes to be assimilated into the dominant Han Chinese culture.

"They think these people are poorly educated, isolated, backwards, can't speak Mandarin," said James Leibold, a scholar of Chinese ethnic policy at La Trobe University in Melbourne. "So what do you do? You 'educate' them, you find ways to transform them in your own image. Bringing them into the Han Chinese heartland is a way to turbocharge this transformation."

OFILM's website indicates the Xinjiang workers make screens, camera cover lenses and fingerprint scanners. It touts customers including Apple, Samsung, Lenovo, Dell, HP, LG and Huawei, although there was no way for the AP to track specific products to specific companies.

Apple's most recent list of suppliers, published January last year, includes three OFILM factories in Nanchang. It's unclear whether the specific OFILM factory the AP visited twice in Nanchang supplies Apple, but it has the same address as one listed. Another OFILM factory is located about half a mile away on a different street. Apple did not answer repeated requests for clarification on which factory it uses.

In an email, Apple said its code of conduct requires suppliers to "provide channels that encourage employees to voice concerns." It said it interviews the employees of suppliers during annual assessments in their local language without their managers present, and had done 44,000 interviews in 2018.

Lenovo confirmed that it sources screens, cameras, and fingerprint scanners from OFILM but said it was not aware of the allegations and would investigate. Lenovo also pointed to a 2018 audit by the Reliable Business Alliance in which OFILM scored very well.

All the companies that responded said they required suppliers to follow strict labor standards. LG and Dell said they had "no evidence" of forced labor in their supply chains but would investigate, as did Huawei. HP did not respond.

OFILM also lists as customers dozens of companies within China, as well as international companies it

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calls "partners" without specifying what product it offers. And it supplies PAR Technology, an American sales systems vendor to which it most recently shipped 48 cartons of touch screens in February, according to U.S. customs data obtained through ImportGenius and Panjiva, which track shipping data.

PAR Technology in turn says it supplies terminals to major chains such as McDonald's, Taco Bell, and Subway. However, the AP was unable to confirm that products from OFILM end up with the fast food companies.

McDonald's said it has asked PAR Technology to discontinue purchases from OFILM while it launches an immediate investigation. PAR Technology also said it would investigate immediately. Subway and Taco Bell did not respond.

A report Sunday from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, researched separately from the AP, estimated that more than 80,000 Uighurs were transferred from Xinjiang to factories across China between 2017 and 2019. The report said it found "conditions that strongly suggest forced labor" consistent with International Labor Organization definitions.

The AP also reported a year ago that Uighur forced labor was being used within Xinjiang to make sportswear that ended up in the U.S.

## FROM FARMERS TO FACTORY WORKERS

Beijing first sent Uighurs to work in inland China in the early 2000s, as part of a broad effort to push minorities to adopt urban lifestyles and integrate with the Han Chinese majority to tighten political control.

At first the program targeted young, single women, because the state worried that Uighur women raised in pious Muslim families didn't work, had children early and refused to marry Han men. But as stories of poor pay and tight restrictions trickled back, police began threatening some parents with jail time if they didn't send their children, six Uighurs told the AP.

The program was halted in 2009, when at least two Uighurs died in a brawl with Han workers at a toy factory in coastal Guangdong province. After peaceful protests in Xinjiang were met with police fire, ethnic riots broke out that killed an estimated 200 people, mostly Han Chinese civilians.

An AP review of Chinese academic papers and state media reports shows that officials blamed the failure of the labor program on the Uighurs' language and culture. So when the government ramped up the program again after the ascent of hardline Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2012, it emphasized ideological transformation.

A paper drafted by the head of the Xinjiang statistics bureau in 2014 said the Uighurs' poor Mandarin made it hard for them to integrate in inner China. It concluded that Xinjiang's rural minorities needed to be broken away from traditional lifestyles and systematically "disciplined", "trained" and "instilled with modern values."

"The local saturated religious atmosphere and the long-time living habits of ethnic minorities are incompatible with the requirements of modern industrial production," the paper said. It outlined a need to "slowly correct misunderstandings about going out to choose jobs."

Before Uighurs were transferred for jobs, the paper continued, they needed to be trained and assessed on their living habits and adoption of corporate culture.

"Those who fail will not be exported," it said.

The paper also described government incentives such as tax breaks and subsidies for Chinese companies to take Uighurs. A 2014 draft contract for Xinjiang laborers in Guangdong province obtained by the AP shows the government there offered companies 3000 RMB (\$428.52) per worker, with an additional 1000 RMB (\$142.84) for "training" each person for no less than 60 class hours. In exchange, companies had to offer "concentrated accommodation areas," halal canteens and "ethnic unity education and training."

But it was a tough sell at a time when Chinese officials were grappling with knifings, bombings and car attacks by Uighurs, fueled by explosive anger at the government's harsh security measures and religious restrictions. Hundreds died in race-related violence in Xinjiang, both Uighur and Han Chinese.

A labor agent who only gave his surname, Zhang, said he tried brokering deals to send Xinjiang workers to factories in the eastern city of Hangzhou, but finding companies willing to take Uighurs was a challenge,

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especially in a slowing economy.

"Their work efficiency is not high," he said.

The size of the program is considerable. A November 2017 state media report said Hotan prefecture alone planned to send 20,000 people over two years to work in inner China.

There, the report said, they would "realize the dreams of their lives."

## ANSWERING THE GOVERNMENT'S CALL

The Uighurs at OFILM were sent there as part of the government's labor program, in an arrangement the company's website calls a "school-enterprise cooperative." OFILM describes the workers as migrants organized by the government or vocational school students on "internships".

OFILM confirmed it received AP requests for comment but did not reply.

The AP was unable to get inside the facility, and on one visit to Nanchang, plainclothes police tailed AP journalists by car and on foot. But posts on the company website extoll OFILM's efforts to accommodate their Uighur workers with Mandarin and politics classes six days a week, along with halal food.

OFILM first hired Uighurs in 2017, recruiting over 3,000 young men and women in Xinjiang. They bring the Uighurs on one- or two-year contracts to Nanchang, a southeastern metropolis nearly two thousand miles from Xinjiang that local officials hope to turn into a tech hub.

OFILM is one of Nanchang's biggest employers, with half a dozen factory complexes sprinkled across the city and close ties with the state. Investment funds backed by the Nanchang city government own large stakes in OFILM, corporate filings show. The Nanchang government told the AP that OFILM recruits minorities according to "voluntary selection by both parties" and provides equal pay along with personal and religious freedom.

OFILM's website says the company "answered the government's call" and went to Xinjiang to recruit minorities. The Uighurs need training, OFILM says, to pull them from poverty and help them "study and improve."

Mandarin is heavily emphasized, the site says, as well as lessons in history and "ethnic unity" to "comprehensively improve their overall quality." The site features pictures of Uighurs playing basketball on factory grounds, dancing in a canteen and vying in a Mandarin speech competition.

In August, when OFILM organized celebrations for Eid Qurban, a major Islamic festival, Uighur employees did not pray at a mosque. Instead, they dressed in orange uniforms and gathered in a basketball court for a show with Communist officials called "Love the Motherland – Thank the Party." An OFILM post said a "Uighur beauty" dazzled with her "beautiful exotic style."

State media reports portray the Nanchang factory workers as rural and backwards before the Communist Party trained them, a common perception of the Uighurs among the Han Chinese.

"The workers' concept of time was hazy, they would sleep in till whenever they wanted," a Party official is quoted as saying in one. Now, he said, their "concept of time has undergone a total reversal."

In the reports and OFILM posts, the Uighurs are portrayed as grateful to the Communist Party for sending them to inner China.

Despite the wan expressions of three OFILM workers from Lop County, a December 2017 report said they gave an "enthusiastic" presentation about how they lived in clean new dormitories "much better than home" and were visited by Communist Party cadres.

"We were overjoyed that leaders from the Lop County government still come to see us on holidays," one of the workers, Estullah Ali, was quoted as saying. "Many of us were moved to tears."

## THEY TOOK MY CHILD TO INNER CHINA

Minorities fleeing China describe a far grimmer situation. H., a wealthy jade merchant from Lop County, where OFILM now gets Uighur workers, began noticing the labor transfer program in 2014. That's when state propaganda blaring through television and loudspeakers urged young Uighurs to work in inner China. Officials hustled families to a labor transfer office where they were forced to sign contracts, under threat of land confiscations and prison sentences.



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H., identified only by the initial of his last name out of fear of retribution, was worried. The government was not only reviving the labor program but also clamping down on religion. Acquaintances vanished: Devout Muslims and language teachers, men with beards, women with headscarves.

Toward the end of 2015, when H. greeted his 72-year-old neighbor on the street, the man burst into tears. "They took my child to inner China to work," he said.

Months later, H. and his family fled China.

Zharqynbek Otan, a Chinese-born ethnic Kazakh, said that after he was released from an internment camp in 2018, neighbors in his home village also told him their sons and daughters were forced to sign contracts for 6 months to five years to work at factories near Shanghai. If they ran from the factories, they were warned, they'd be taken straight back to internment camps.

Nurlan Kokteubai, an ethnic Kazakh, said during his time in an internment camp, a cadre told him they selected young, strong people to work in inner Chinese factories in need of labor.

"He told us that those young people would acquire vocational skills," Kokteubai said.

Not all workers are subject to the restrictions at OFILM. One ethnic Kazakh said her brother made power banks in central China for \$571.36 a month and didn't take classes.

But another said two of his cousins were forced to go and work in cold, harsh conditions. They were promised \$428.52 a month but paid only \$42.85. Though they wanted to quit, four Uighurs who complained were detained in camps after returning to Xinjiang, scaring others.

Uighurs and Kazakhs in exile say it's likely those working in inner China are still better off than those in camps or factories in Xinjiang, and that in the past, some had gone voluntarily to earn money. A former worker at Jiangxi Lianchuang Electronics, a lens maker in Nanchang, told The Associated Press the 300 or so Uighurs there were free to enter or leave their compound, although most live in dormitories inside factory grounds. He and a current worker said they were happy with their working conditions, their salary of about 5,000 RMB (\$714.20) a month, and their teachers and Mandarin classes in the evenings.

But when presented a list of questions in Uighur about the labor transfers, the former Jiangxi Lianchuang worker started to look very nervous. He asked for the list, then set it on fire with a lighter and dropped it in an ashtray.

"If the Communist Party hears this, then" – he knocked his wrists together, mimicking a suspect being handcuffed. "It's very bad."

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Associated Press writer Erika Kinetz contributed to this report.

## **Biden's victories unleash something he's never had: Money**

**By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Strapped for cash and badly outspent by his rivals, Joe Biden barely had enough money to air television ads in critical Super Tuesday battlegrounds.

He won't have that problem again.

Support for Biden from the Democratic establishment abruptly materialized Wednesday as influential donors lined up behind the former vice president following his romp through 10 of the 14 contests. The showing reshaped the primary into a two-person race between him and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, providing clarity in what had been a crowded field.

In Los Angeles, a pricey Biden event suddenly sold out on Tuesday night. In Florida, a prominent fundraiser received an outpouring of phone calls from donors who now want to help Biden clinch the Democratic nomination.

Others who hadn't been in touch with the campaign were nonetheless laying the groundwork for big-dollar events. Bryan Rafanelli, a major Democratic donor in Boston who was one of Pete Buttigieg's top fundraisers, was flooded with requests to host a gathering after announcing his support for Biden on social media.

"I don't have a date. I haven't talked to the Biden people," Rafanelli said. "I don't want to get out over

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my skis. But it's going to happen."

Democratic megadonor Susie Tompkins Buell, who also backed Buttigieg before he dropped out, said in a text message that she now supports Biden and is open to hosting an event.

Biden has never been a particularly successful fundraiser. His perseverance over better-funded candidates, including two billionaires who poured their personal wealth into their campaigns, demonstrates the limits of unlimited money.

But it also underscores the indecision that gripped many moderates, donors included, who had several candidates to choose from until Biden cleared much of the field with a commanding win in Saturday's South Carolina primary.

"It has been a lot easier to fundraise for Joe Biden in the last 72 hours than it had been over the previous 72 days," said Alan Patricof, a Wall Street venture capitalist and longtime Biden supporter.

Now that Biden is in a tight contest with Sanders, his campaign is poised to be flooded with cash — the very resource he has sorely lacked. The money will come from donors who say they are nervous about Sanders' open embrace of democratic socialism and fear his nomination would result in President Donald Trump's reelection.

"Everyone likes a winner. It's not very complicated," said Tom Nides, a former deputy secretary of state and adviser to Hillary Clinton. "Joe Biden has proven it's not all about money and not all about organization — it's about authenticity."

Biden was running on fumes headed into Super Tuesday, drastically outspent across the country by billionaire former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg. Billionaire Tom Steyer flooded the airwaves with pricey ads in South Carolina, where he tried to cut into Biden's support from black voters. And for much of the contest, he lagged in fundraising behind Sanders, Buttigieg and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

The sudden interest in Biden is intense — and overwhelming.

At Wednesday's fundraiser in the posh Bel Air neighborhood of Los Angeles, there was no available parking, and valet service was over capacity, according to a person with direct knowledge of the event. Held at the home of Paramount Pictures executive Sherry Lansing, it exploded from 80 to 350 registered attendees, including actor Leonardo DiCaprio, in the days leading up to it.

A Florida consultant said out-of-state donors asked about flying in for a Biden fundraiser. Both people spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss planning details.

Despite the flood of incoming cash, Biden's newfound financial success could also prove to be a liability. Sanders took aim at him over the issue during a news conference in Vermont on Wednesday.

"You've got a candidate from the establishment going out to rich people's homes, raising all kinds of money," Sanders said.

Such rhetoric is precisely why some wealthy donors are uneasy about Sanders, who calls for political revolution, and are now eager to work with Biden.

"We had a revolution back in 1776," Rafanelli said. "We don't need another now."

For some longtime supporters, the change in fortunes is cathartic after a monthlong stretch of tough headlines about poorly attended town halls and uneven debate performances that seemed to reinforce a perception of Biden as someone doomed to lose.

"Primaries are always messy," said Steve Westly, a Silicon Valley venture capitalist who has been raising money for Biden since he got in the race. "Momentum is everything, and people want to be a part of the winning side."

Biden's financial picture began to shift the week before the South Carolina primary. A super PAC backing him called Unite the Country, raised \$2.5 million that week. Biden's campaign also reported raising \$10 million in the days after.

Since then, Biden aides say they've taken in \$7.1 million online during a 42-hour period that included Super Tuesday. Strategists for Unite the Country, which can raise and spend unlimited sums so long as they don't coordinate with Biden's campaign, now expect to take in even more.

That will help get Biden's message out while defending him from attacks by Sanders. The group, which is cutting an ad now, expects to be on the air soon in Missouri, Michigan and Mississippi.

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"We are going to defend our guy," said Unite the Country strategist Steve Schale.

Associated Press writer Will Weissert in Washington contributed to this report.

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

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, March 6, the 66th day of 2020. There are 300 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 6, 1944, U.S. heavy bombers staged the first full-scale American raid on Berlin during World War II.

On this date:

In 1475, Italian artist and poet Michelangelo was born in Caprese (kah-PRAY'-say) in the Republic of Florence.

In 1834, the city of York in Upper Canada was incorporated as Toronto.

In 1836, the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, fell as Mexican forces led by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna stormed the fortress after a 13-day siege; the battle claimed the lives of all the Texan defenders, nearly 200 strong, including William Travis, James Bowie and Davy Crockett.

In 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Dred Scott v. Sandford, ruled 7-2 that Scott, a slave, was not an American citizen and therefore could not sue for his freedom in federal court.

In 1933, a national bank holiday declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt aimed at calming panicked depositors went into effect. Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak, wounded in an attempt on Roosevelt's life the previous month, died at a Miami hospital at age 59.

In 1935, retired Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., died in Washington two days before his 94th birthday.

In 1964, heavyweight boxing champion Cassius Clay officially changed his name to Muhammad Ali.

In 1970, a bomb being built inside a Greenwich Village townhouse by the radical Weathermen accidentally went off, destroying the house and killing three group members.

In 1973, Nobel Prize-winning author Pearl S. Buck, 80, died in Danby, Vt.

In 1981, Walter Cronkite signed off for the last time as principal anchorman of "The CBS Evening News."

In 2002, Independent Counsel Robert Ray issued his final report in which he wrote that former President Bill Clinton could have been indicted and probably would have been convicted in the scandal involving former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

In 2008, a Palestinian killed eight students at a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem before he was slain; Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip praised the operation in a statement, and thousands of Palestinians took to the streets of Gaza to celebrate.

Ten years ago: Voters in Iceland resoundingly rejected a \$5.3 billion plan to repay Britain and the Netherlands for debts spawned by the collapse of an Icelandic bank. The Louisville Cardinals gave Freedom Hall a memorable send-off by upsetting No. 1 Syracuse 78-68.

Five years ago: During a town hall at South Carolina's Benedict College, President Barack Obama said racial discrimination from police in Ferguson, Missouri, was "oppressive and abusive" as he called for criminal justice reform as part of the modern struggle for civil rights. NASA's Dawn spacecraft slipped into orbit around Ceres, the largest celestial body in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, for the first exploration of a dwarf planet. The NCAA suspended Syracuse University basketball coach Jim Boeheim (BAY'-hym) for nine conference games and outlined a decade-long series of violations by the school that included academic misconduct, improper benefits, and drug-policy failures.

One year ago: In a nationally televised interview (on "CBS This Morning,") R&B singer R. Kelly whispered,

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cried and ranted while pleading with viewers to believe that he had never had sex with anyone under 17, and had never held anyone against her will; Kelly would end the day in jail after telling a judge that he could not pay \$161,000 in back child support that he owed to the mother of his children. The Democratic National Committee said it would not pick Fox News to televise one of the upcoming debates for the 2020 Democratic presidential contenders; party chairman Tom Perez said the network was not in a position to host a fair and neutral debate.

Today's Birthdays: Former FBI and CIA director William Webster is 96. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan is 94. Dancer-actress Carmen de Lavallade is 89. Former Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova is 83. Former Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond, R-Mo., is 81. Actress-writer Joanna Miles is 80. Actor Ben Murphy is 78. Opera singer Dame Kiri Te Kanawa is 76. Singer Mary Wilson (The Supremes) is 76. Rock musician Hugh Grundy (The Zombies) is 75. Rock singer-musician David Gilmour (Pink Floyd) is 74. Actress Anna Maria Horsford is 73. Actor-director Rob Reiner is 73. Singer Kiki Dee is 73. TV consumer reporter John Stossel is 73. Composer-lyricist Stephen Schwartz is 72. Rock singer-musician Phil Alvin (The Blasters) is 67. Sports correspondent Armen Keteyian is 67. Actor Tom Arnold is 61. Actor D.L. Hughley is 57. Country songwriter Skip Ewing is 56. Actor Shuler Hensley is 53. Actress Connie Britton is 53. Actress Moira Kelly is 52. Actress Amy Pietz is 51. Rock musician Chris Broderick (Megadeth) is 50. Basketball Hall of Famer Shaquille O'Neal is 48. Country singer Trent Willmon is 47. Country musician Shan Farmer (formerly w/Ricochet) is 46. Rapper Beanie Sigel is 46. Rapper Bubba Sparxxx is 43. Actor Shawn Evans is 40. Rock musician Chris Tomson (Vampire Weekend) is 36. MLB pitcher Jake Arrieta is 34. Actor Eli Marienthal is 34. Actor Jimmy Galeota is 34. Rapper/producer Tyler, the Creator is 29. Actor Dillon Freasier is 24. Actress Savannah Stehlin is 24. Actress Millicent Simmonds (Film: "Wonderstruck") is 17.

Thought for Today: "Don't be 'consistent,' but be simply true." — Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., U.S. Supreme Court justice (1841-1935).

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