

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Upcoming Events

### 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.

## **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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## Sunday Extras



### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Do not let your adornment be merely outward – arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel – rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 1 PETER 3:3,4*

Detail of “Lesende Frau” by August Macke (1913)



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MARGULIES  
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Trump Addresses The Coronavirus

## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Leviticus in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. About whom did Jesus say, "For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men"? *Physicians, Hypocrites, Sadducees, Adamites*

3. From Genesis 29, what childless woman was jealous of her sister's fertility? *Candace, Abigail, Rachel, Herodias*

4. In what book do we find the story of Samson and Delilah? *Judges, Numbers, Exodus, 1 John*

5. From Genesis 39, whose wife tried to seduce a handsome slave? *Daniel, Shimei, Potiphar, Achan*

6. In Ruth 3, which farmer winnowed his barley at night? *Abner, Eleazar, Boaz, Joab*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Hypocrites; 3) Rachel; 4) Judges; 5) Potiphar; 6) Boaz

*Comments? Gift ideas? More Trivia? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com)*

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## Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy 

by Healthy Exchanges

### County Mayo Casserole

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with this simple but grand main dish named after the county in Ireland. Erin go Bragh!

- 2 cups chopped cabbage
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 2 (2.5-ounce) packages 90% lean corned beef, shredded
- 2 cups cooked noodles, rinsed and drained
- 3 (3/4-ounce) slices reduced-fat Swiss cheese, shredded
- 1 (10 3/4-ounce) can reduced-fat cream of mushroom soup
- 1/4 cup fat-free mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon prepared mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Spray an 8-by-8-inch baking dish with butter-flavored cooking spray.

2. In a large skillet sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray, saute cabbage, celery, onion and carrots for 10 minutes or until tender. Stir in corned beef, noodles and Swiss cheese. Add mushroom soup, mayonnaise, mustard and black pepper. Spread mixture into prepared baking dish.

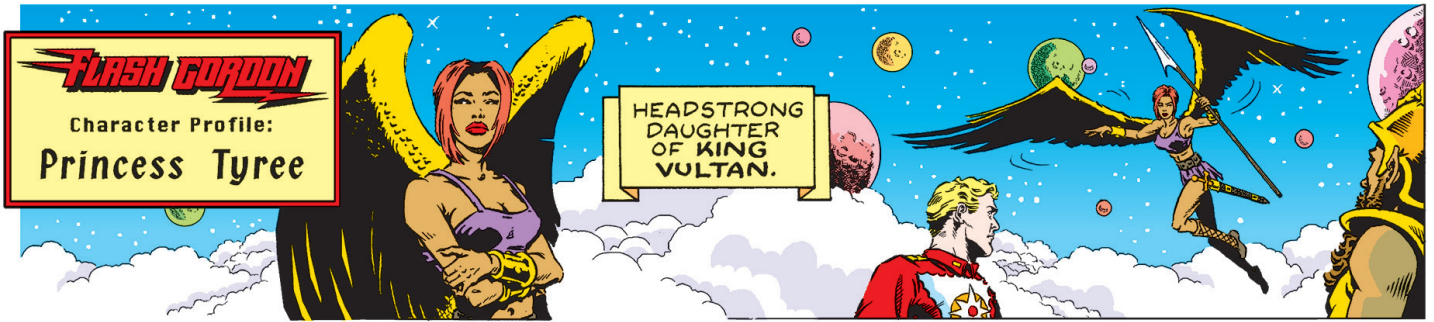
3. Bake for 30 minutes. Place baking dish on a wire rack and let set for 5 minutes. Divide into 4 servings.

• Each serving equals: 289 calories, 8g fat, 16g protein, 36g carb., 983mg sodium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 1/2 Starch/Carb., 1 Vegetable.

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**FLASH GORDON**  
3-1 BY JIM KEEFE

IT'S BAD ENOUGH WE'RE FACING CERTAIN DEATH, BUT TO HAVE IT BROADCAST FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE...  
BROADCAST...  
TYREE, THE WIRES...

GOT IT...WE CAN ELECTROCUTE THE BEAST!

**ZASK!**

FLASH AND THE DELEGATES BRACE FOR THE NEXT ONSLAUGHT.

WATCH OUT!

FLASH!

NO...\*

TO BE CONTD..!

## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

ALL OF US HAVE ENCOUNTERED MATCH-PLAY OPPONENTS WHO, ALTHOUGH ONLY AVERAGE STRIKERS FROM TEE TO GREEN, ARE HIGHLY SKILLED AROUND AND ON THE GREENS.

KEEP YOUR COOL IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.  
UNBELIEVABLE!  
HAVING TO CONSTANTLY RELY ON RECOVERY SHOTS IS MIGHTY STRESSFUL, THUS CHANCES ARE THAT THE MAGIC WON'T LAST FOR ALL 18 HOLES.  
JUST HANG IN THERE!

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## New Option to Treat Enlarged Prostate

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I am a 66-year old male, who is healthy with a very active life, both physical and sexual. Like many men my age, I have an enlarged prostate that my doctor monitors during annual visits. It doesn't impair my life, with the small exception of being annoying (waking up nightly to a weak or slow urinating stream), and it doesn't bother me too much during the day, except once in a while when I have to urinate a little more than usual. Every now and then I'll try an over-the-counter prostate supplement, but they never work. I will NOT go for a surgery because it's not really necessary.

I just read about a new revolutionary treatment option called a prostatic lift device, which is supposed to "lift and remove the prostate tissue out of the way so it no longer blocks the urethra (the passageway that the urine flows through)." It says, "Tiny implants are placed to hold the tissue in place, like tiebacks on a window curtain, leaving an unobstructed pathway for urine to flow normally again." They go on to say that treatment typically takes under an hour, preserves sexual function, doesn't require cutting, heating or removal of tissue. Compared with other BPH surgeries, this system is supposed to have a strong safety profile with minimal side effects. Have you ever heard of this? Do you think it's safe? It sounds great. However, the thought of tiny implants being placed inside of me and staying there scares me. — V.A.

**ANSWER:** The prostatic urethral lift procedure is yet another option for men with symptoms of an enlarged prostate. The procedure does involve the placement of small implants. The procedure is said to be easy to perform (easy for a urologist, that is), and improves quality of life and measures of urinary flow.

In a study of 206 men, none developed sexual troubles after the procedure. It has significant benefits over traditional surgery: Recovery is faster and has less risk of sexual side effects, but traditional surgery improved urinary flow and complete bladder drainage more than the urethral lift procedure. Also, 14% of men who had the lift procedure needed the traditional surgery within five years. The implants seem to be safe and do not affect the ability to do surgery if necessary.

I wouldn't recommend this procedure nor a surgical procedure — or even an alternative procedure like laser, microwave, plasma vaporization or water vapor ablation — without a trial of prescription medication first. Most men do very well with an alpha blocker like tamsulosin (Flomax), a dihydrotestosterone blocker like dutasteride (Avodart), or a combination of the two. I'm not sure you have tried that.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** Simple question: Why can't I hear well when I am having a big yawn? Is this normal? — J.C.A.

**ANSWER:** This is normal; in fact, it's a universal finding with a yawn that hearing decreases (but doesn't go away entirely). This is because the Eustachian tube closes, and there is a pressure difference inside versus the outside of the eardrum, reducing the ability of the ear to transmit sound.

Interestingly, after a big yawn, hearing may be improved; when the Eustachian tube reopens after the jaw position changes, it can equalize the pressure and improve sound transmission.

*Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).*

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1. How do you pronounce the name of the band INXS?
2. Why did Joan Jett take that name?
3. What was the original name of the band that eventually became Sugar Ray?
4. Who released an album titled "CHOBAB CCCP"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I'm gonna love you till the stars fall from the sky for you and I ... Stronger than dirt."

### Answers

1. "In excess." In various incarnations they were known as Doctor Dolphin, Guinness, Farris Brothers and The Vegetables.
2. She was born Joan Marie Larkin. When her parents divorced, she took her mother's maiden name, Jett, for musical reasons. Her first band was the Runaways.
3. The Shrinky Dinx. They had to change the name of the band after threat of a lawsuit by the toymaker who created Shrinky Dinks.
4. Paul McCartney. It means "Back in the USSR," and the first word is pronounced Sno-va.
5. "Touch Me," by The Doors, in 1968. The "stronger than dirt" addition at the end of the song was thought to be a reference to Ajax because the last four notes are the same in both the song and the cleanser commercial.

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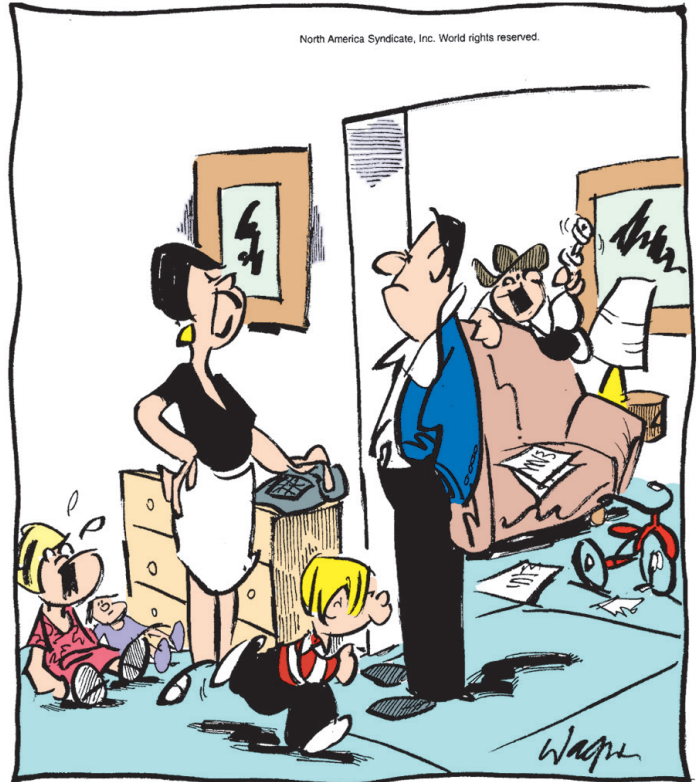
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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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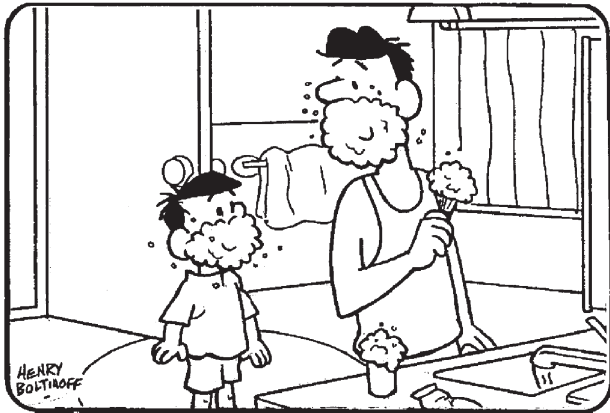
## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>by</sup> Waagner



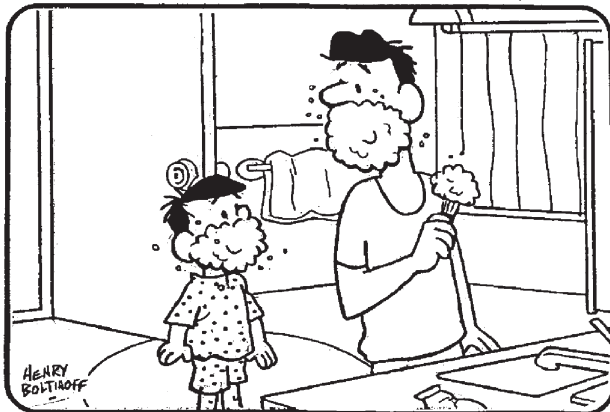
"The grandparents are leaving the kids with us entirely too much!"

### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Polka dots are added. 2. Knob is different. 3. Towel is shorter. 4. Shirt is different. 5. Cup is missing. 6. Water is off.



- Most people wash their sheets, and some people fluff and air out their pillow. But how many properly clean their mattress? Vacuum the mattress surface at least every three months. Sprinkle with baking soda to absorb any odors.

- “I use my panini press to make hash browns because I like them nice and crispy on both sides. It works out great!” — *L.R. in Florida*

- If you’re adding fruit to muffins or quick breads, just make sure you toss them in flour first. It will keep them from sinking to the bottom, distributing them more evenly throughout the bread.

- Need more storage in a small bathroom? Try installing a shelf over the door. It’s an out of the way area where you can store items you don’t need daily, but do need accessible.

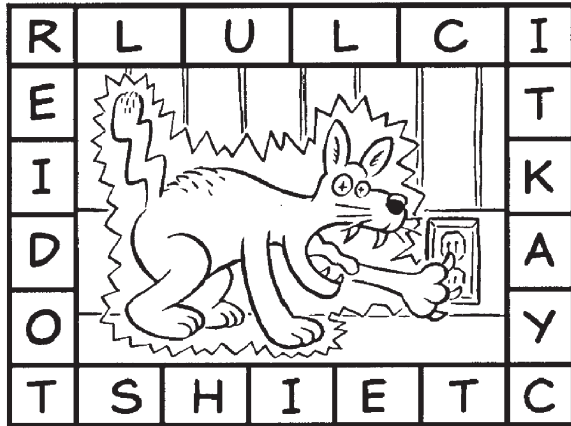
- Use a serrated knife to cut the dome tops off of cake layers, then put them in the freezer for 30 minutes. It will make it easier to frost, and you’ll get less crumbs that come up.

- “I often get up during the night to take medicine to help me sleep better. It’s hard to see and line up the marks to open the container. So I got a permanent black marker and highlighted them (I even made them larger). Now it’s easy to line them up in the dark.” — *D.E. in California*

*Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.*

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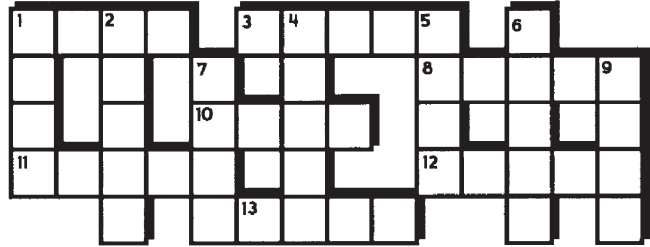
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## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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Illustrated by David Coulson

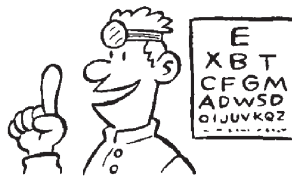
**A SHOCKING PROBLEM!** Find the hidden proverb above by reading every other letter as you go around the frame counterclockwise. Starting with the "C," along the top rail, read: "Curiosity killed the cat."

**DOWN ON THE FARM!** Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are words pertaining to farming that you will need to complete the puzzle, using the trial-and-error method. Try to finish before spring planting.

### THE MYSTERY WORD!

"Pronounced as one letter, and written with three, Two letters there are, and two only in me; I'm double, I'm single, I'm black, blue, and gray, I'm read from both ends, and the same either way."

Answer: The word is "Eye."



4-letter words

BEAN  
BEET  
EGGS  
EWES  
NEST  
SILO

5-letter words

APPLE  
DENIM  
PIGGY  
SPADE  
SWILL  
THYME  
TILLS  
WEEDS

**LINK-UPS!** Here's a list of 12, one-syllable words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

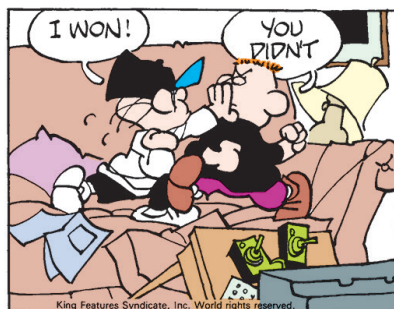
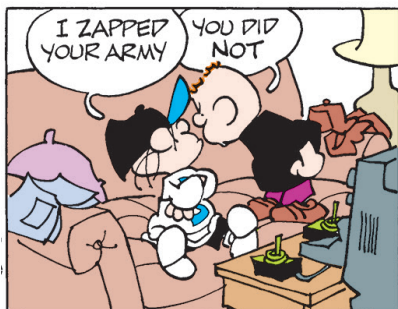
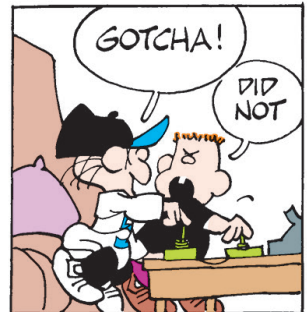
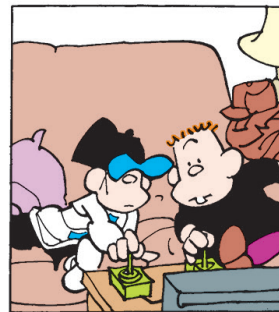
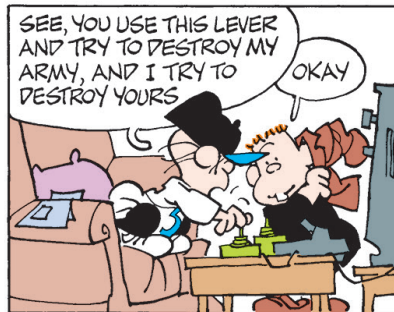
- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 1. RUM  | THE  |
| 2. PAGE | AIL  |
| 3. SEE  | ICE  |
| 4. MAR  | ANT  |
| 5. TOPS | PLED |
| 9. NOT  | BLD  |

Answer: Rumped, pageant, seethe, marbled, topsail, notice.

Answers: (Across) 1. Bean, 3. Spade, 8. Weeds, 10. Eggs, 11. Tills, 12. Swill, 13. Thyme. (Down) 1. Beet, 2. Apple, 4. Piggy, 5. Ewes, 6. Denim, 7. Nest, 9. Silo

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Symbol of intrigue
- 4 Jet forth
- 8 Faucet problem
- 12 Shade
- 13 Part of the foot
- 14 Solemn promise
- 15 Geological period
- 16 Silver salmon
- 17 Wrinkly fruit
- 18 Informal game
- 21 "Absolutely"
- 22 Deposit
- 23 Brilliance
- 26 Cotillion honoree

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18			19					20				
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31				32			
33				34				35				
			36				37					
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45					46					47		
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

- 27 Blond shade
- 30 Proper subject?
- 31 Stop running
- 32 Toll road
- 33 Pooch
- 34 Cover
- 35 Bizarre
- 36 "A mouse!"
- 37 Donkey
- 38 Uncanny ability to make money
- 45 Memory unit
- 46 Tittle
- 47 Aye canceler
- 48 Practice pugilism
- 49 Heal, as a fracture
- 50 Little demon
- 51 Bouquet
- 52 Withered
- 53 Ball prop
- 8 Uncertainty
- 9 Sitarist's music
- 10 "— have to do"
- 11 Collins or Donahue
- 19 Greenish-blue
- 20 Bathroom fixture
- 23 Conclusion
- 24 Bill's partner
- 25 Drag along
- 26 Accomplished
- 27 Football fill
- 28 Go downhill rapidly?
- 29 Haw preceder
- 31 Long-snouted antelopes
- 32 Mexican moola
- 34 Mainlander's memento
- 35 Will subject
- 36 Nail smoother
- 37 Moving about
- 38 Recipe meas.
- 39 Syringe, for short
- 40 Greek vowels
- 41 Top-notch
- 42 Troop group
- 43 Arrived
- 44 Advertise

### DOWN

- 1 Sharpen
- 2 Continental coin
- 3 Bridges or Brummell
- 4 Potpourri bag
- 5 College lecturers, often
- 6 Reverberate
- 7 "Yahoo!"

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## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

W	E	B		S	P	E	W		D	R	I	P
H	U	E		A	R	C	H		O	A	T	H
E	R	A		C	O	H	O		U	G	L	I
T	O	U	C	H	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L
			Y	E	S			P	U	T		
E	C	L	A	T		D	E	B		A	S	H
N	O	U	N		D	I	E		P	I	K	E
D	O	G		L	I	D		E	E	R	I	E
			E	E	K		A	S	S			
T	H	E	M	I	D	A	S	T	O	U	C	H
B	Y	T	E		I	O	T	A		N	A	Y
S	P	A	R		K	N	I	T		I	M	P
P	O	S	Y		S	E	R	E		T	E	E

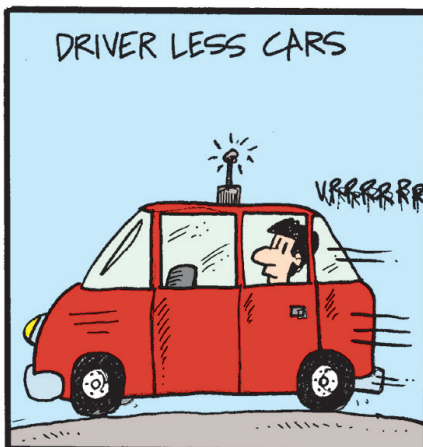
## LAFF - A - DAY



"Do you realize it's been nearly a year since you've held a 'Sale of the Century'?"

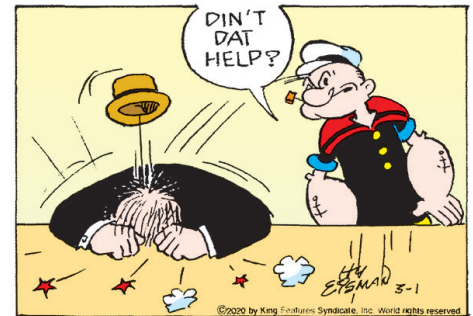
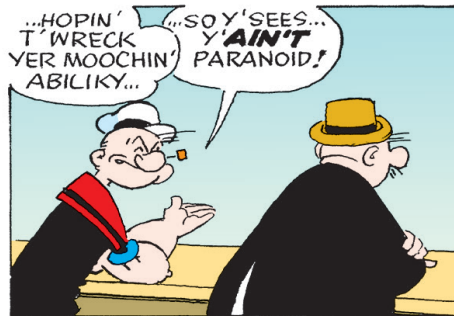
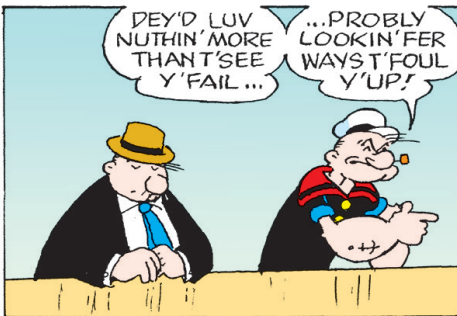
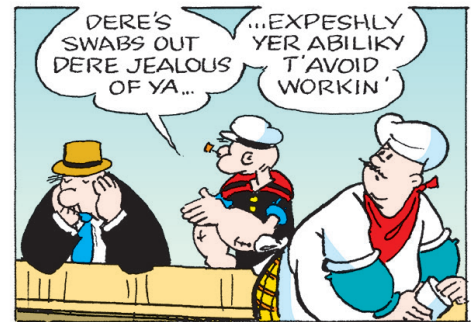
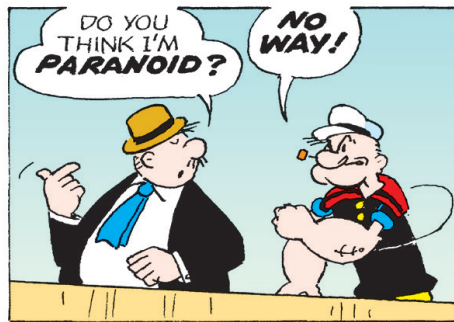
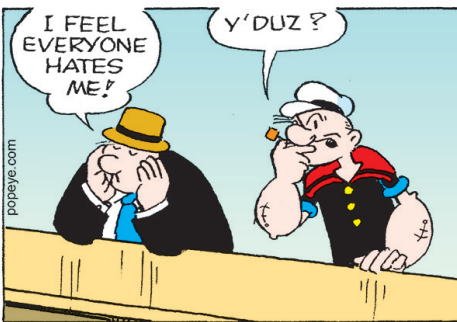
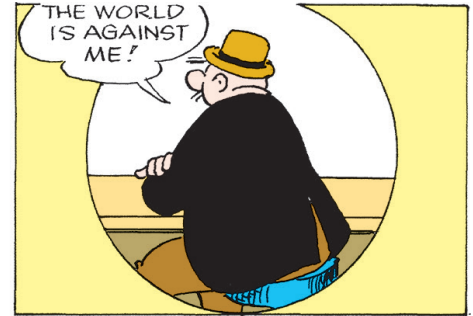
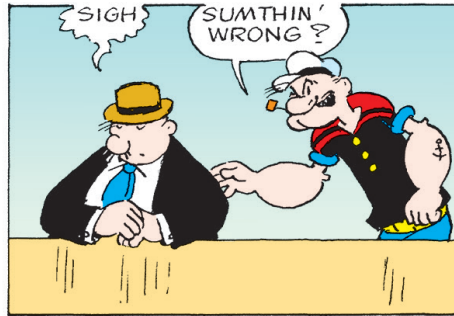
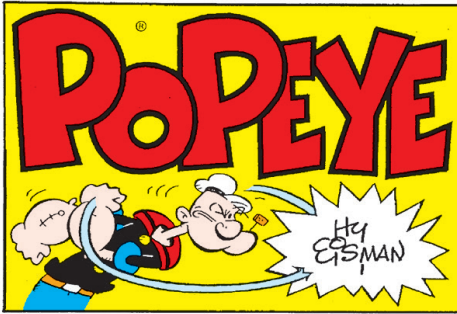
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



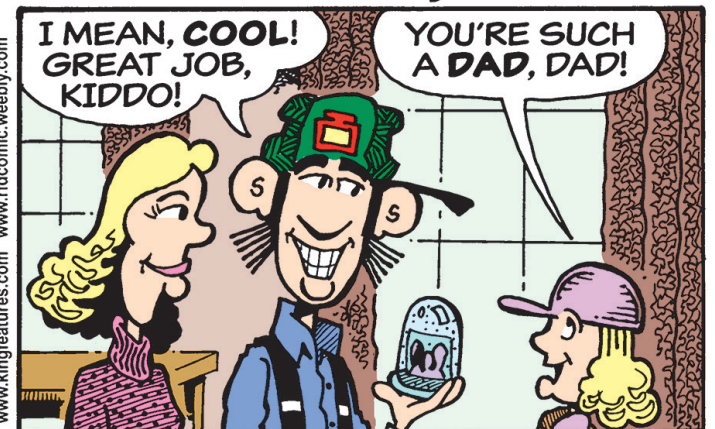
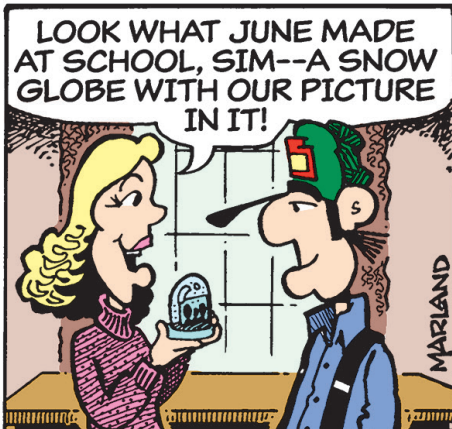
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## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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MARLAND

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HAL FOSTER'S BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ **Prince Valiant** Our Story: VAL'S FORMER CAPTORS HAVE THROWN THEIR LOT IN WITH THE PRINCE. DESPITE THE UNFAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS, THEIR INTENSE FAMILIAL RIVALRY FLARES UP, LEADING TO MUCH AMUSEMENT ON DECK.

ALETA, HOWEVER, IS DISGUSTED BY THE BEHAVIOR. IT WAS HER APPEARANCE THAT SPARKED THE JEALOUS OUTBURST, AND IT IS SHE WHO TAKES ACTION TO SNUFF IT.

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MEN HAVE DIED FOR LESS THAN THIS. BUT THE BRUTES RESPOND TO ALETA'S DOUSING WITH ADORING EYES. THE QUEEN HAS THREE MORE DEVOTED SUBJECTS.

SO THE TENSE SITUATION IS DEFUSED, WITH THE NEWCOMERS HAPPILY PLACING THEIR LIVES IN HER LOVELY HANDS. SOON ALL ARE FILLING EMPTY BELLIES...

5152

... BEFORE A WELL-EARNED SLEEP, A LONE WATCH DOES NOT SEE THE HAIRY HAND THAT STEALS SILENTLY, WETLY OVER THE RAIL ...

NEXT:  
Night fishing  
By Gianni  
3-4-09

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

DID YOU GET YOUR CHORES DONE?

NOPE, BUT THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW

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... NOT TO DO THEM AGAIN.

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Follow Flu Tips to Stay Safe From Coronavirus

We can't turn on the news now without hearing about the new virus that's sweeping the world. Coronavirus, now called COVID-19, is a serious virus that came out of China. At this point the virus has spread to more than 30 countries and there have been over 2,800 deaths.

Protecting ourselves from COVID-19 is much like how we avoid the seasonal winter flu that's now in high numbers in every state. Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is mostly common sense, but every step is important:

- Wash your hands frequently. Use warm water and soap and wash for a minimum of 20 seconds. Try singing "Happy Birthday" to mark the time.

- Keep your hands away from your face, even if you've just washed your hands.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and then throw away the tissue.

- Disinfect surfaces in your environment frequently, such as countertops and doorknobs.

- When you go out, take a pack of antiseptic wipes to wet down grocery cart handles. If you don't have those, put hand sanitizer on your palms and wet the cart handle.

- Never share cups or plates or anything else with those who are sick.

- If you have to be out in public, keep your distance. Stay at least 6 feet away from others. For now, avoid shaking hands.

- If you feel sick, don't rush to the doctor. Call first and explain your symptoms. If they want you to come in, there might be a special entrance for you to use to keep from spreading germs to others.

Stay healthy this winter. Get enough sleep, eat well and keep your stress down. All of those affect your immune system. And if you haven't had a flu shot, get one now.

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1. What women's college basketball team had its streak of 253 straight weeks ranked in the Associated Press poll's top five snapped on Feb. 17, 2020?

2. Actor Terry Crews ("Brooklyn Nine-Nine") was selected in the 11th round of the 1991 NFL Draft by what team?

3. In what sport would the competitors abide by the Marquess of Queensberry Rules?

4. Who was the last U.S. woman to win the gold medal in the ladies' discipline at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships?

5. What TV sportscaster played with future PGA Tour pros Fred Couples and Blaine McCallister as a member of the University of Houston golf team?

6. Jean Dolores Schmidt (a.k.a. "Sister Jean") became famous overnight as chaplain for what 2018 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Final Four team?

7. Though nicknamed "The Admi-

ral," what rank did basketball great David Robinson achieve when he completed his Navy service in 1989?

## Answers

1. The Connecticut Huskies, whose historic stretch began Feb. 5, 2007.

2. The Los Angeles Rams.

3. Boxing.

4. Kimmie Meissner, in 2006.

5. Jim Nantz, CBS Sports lead play-by-play announcer.

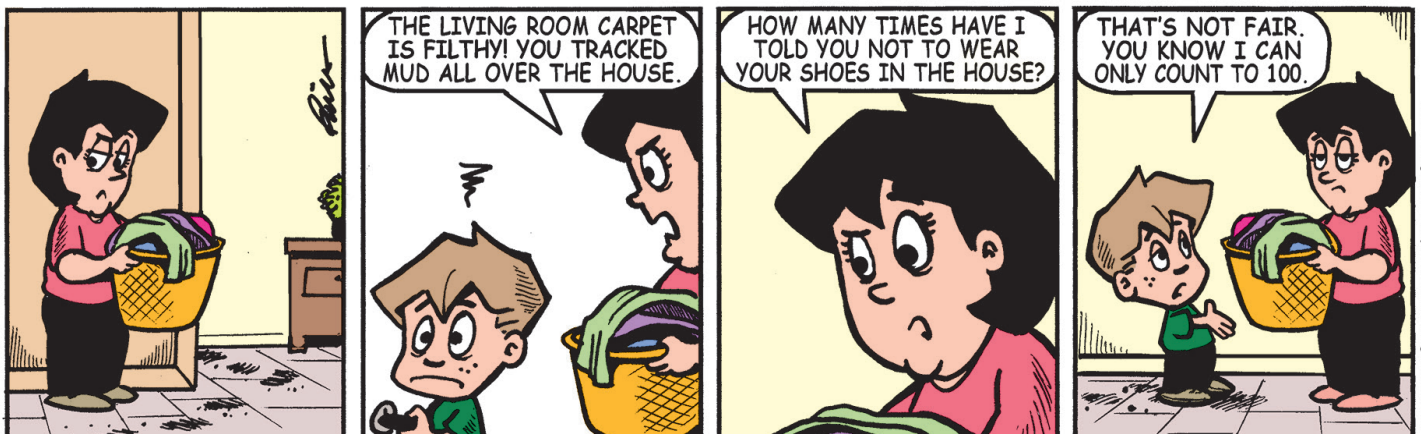
6. The Loyola University Chicago Ramblers.

7. Lieutenant (junior grade).

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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CONGRESSMAN  
**DUSTY JOHNSON**  
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



## Fighting for Hot Springs

Earlier this week, the South Dakota delegation hosted Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) Robert Wilkie, Jr. for a tour of the Hot Springs VA and a roundtable discussion about the vital role this facility serves for the local veteran community. The Hot Springs community's identity and purpose has long been grounded in serving veterans at the historic Battle Mountain facility. As many South Dakotans know, veterans in this area have endured years of uncertainty about the future of the Hot Springs Campus due to past VA leadership who failed to appreciate the Hot Springs VA and the overwhelming support it has from the community.

That all changed earlier this week when Secretary Wilkie unequivocally stated that the Hot Springs VA will not close. He further stated that he will review the adverse decisions made by VA's past leadership and consider ideas put forward by local veteran groups to sustain the Hot Springs VA as a location that robustly serves veterans.

Born in Germany with a father serving in the military, Secretary Wilkie joked that he was born in khaki diapers. He is a military officer in the United States Air Force Reserve and grew up in military communities around the United States. During his visit, Secretary Wilkie remarked that he believes government should do less detached, centralized Washington decision making and instead engage with local folks to hear about how they view the future of their community. I could not agree more – Secretary Wilkie's take is a breath of fresh air.

I am thankful for Secretary Wilkie's gesture of goodwill toward the more than 65,000 veterans in our state, the Hot Springs community, and the South Dakota delegation. As the Secretary takes a second look at his predecessor's decision, I am ready to work with the VA and the local community to identify a positive, community-supported path forward for the Hot Springs VA. Every stakeholder agrees that the status quo is unacceptable, and the Hot Springs community has endured enough uncertainty. This is a clear opportunity for Hot Springs.

In 1865, President Lincoln signed legislation into law that led to the creation of the original Battle Mountain Sanitarium, which is now the Hot Springs VA. Hot Springs, SD has served veterans for more than 100 years. Since opening its doors, the name on the door has changed, the government branch has changed; and the leadership has changed, but service to veterans has remained constant. President Lincoln once said, "All through life, be sure and put your feet in the right place, and then stand firm." We'll continue to fight for the Hot Springs community's tradition of serving our nation's veterans.

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## Protecting Your Health During Coronavirus Outbreak

As the coronavirus continues to spread across the world, we should take precautions to stay healthy. Coronaviruses are a family of many different viruses. The strain of the coronavirus that we're currently concerned about is officially named SARS-CoV-2, and the disease it causes is called COVID-19. As of March 5, South Dakota has no confirmed cases of COVID-19. However, it is still important to be prepared. The administration is taking steps to make sure our country is ready to handle a greater number of COVID-19 cases. Additionally, the South Dakota Department of Health has taken steps to make certain our state is prepared to respond if needed. Their webpage, [doh.sd.gov](http://doh.sd.gov), includes a number of resources to help keep South Dakotans informed.

While the risk of contracting the disease right now is low, it could increase at any time. The president has appointed Vice President Mike Pence to lead the administration's coronavirus response. Vice President Pence is working with top health officials to make sure the government is ready to combat the spread of the virus.

In the United States, we are fortunate to have some of the best therapeutic treatments to help those affected by COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), potential symptoms include fever, coughing and shortness of breath. Symptoms may show up in as few as two days, or up to 14 days. In the Senate briefings on COVID-19 that I've attended, we have been told by administration officials that the virus is similar to the flu but also impacts the lungs and respiratory system, so the symptoms may be similar to what you'd experience with pneumonia. Because of its impact on the respiratory system, those with breathing issues, compromised immune systems, the very young and the elderly should take extra precautions against contracting the virus. Healthy adults are less at risk of experiencing serious symptoms.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent against getting the virus, although scientists are working to develop one. We've been told that it could take anywhere from 18-24 months for a coronavirus vaccine to become widely available to the public. However, President Trump has been calling for an expedited timeline, and we recently learned that clinical testing for a vaccine could happen in five months. Advanced therapeutic drugs will become available much sooner, possibly in a matter of months. These drugs would treat the symptoms of COVID-19 while work continues on an approved vaccine to combat the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

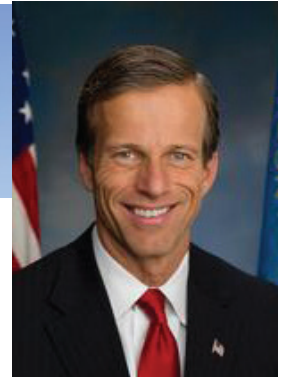
The CDC recommends that we take the following actions to keep ourselves healthy: avoid close contact with people who are sick, avoid touching your face, stay at home if you feel ill, use tissues to cover your cough or sneeze, clean and disinfect frequently touched items and wash your hands frequently. If you don't have access to soap and water, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer like Purell should be used. If you think you may be experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, call ahead before going to your doctor's office so they can be prepared for your arrival. This is especially important if you've traveled to China recently or been in close contact with someone who has traveled from China recently.

The White House has requested funds to help deal with COVID-19. In Congress, we recently passed supplemental funding legislation to provide additional money to the administration for emergency preparedness. The additional funding will provide the resources needed for experts to combat this crisis, allowing them to move quickly and craft a thorough, comprehensive response.

We will continue to share updates on COVID-19 as necessary. In the meantime, I encourage you to follow the CDC guidelines for staying healthy.



**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## **“The Veterans Town” Is Stronger Than Ever**

Hot Springs recently received some long-awaited news: their VA medical facility, which so many South Dakota veterans depend on, will stay open. If I’m being honest, it was not the news I expected to hear during my latest trip to “The Veterans Town,” but I share in the community’s excitement after this long-fought battle has finally been won. I want to thank Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie, who accepted the congressional delegation’s invitation to meet with stakeholders from throughout the region. They told powerful stories, and the secretary, to his credit, listened.

There’s a lot more to the story, though, and you have to go back nearly 10 years to fully appreciate what this recent news means to the community. The story spans two presidential administrations and four VA secretaries, but it all starts with the Obama administration’s 2011 proposal to “realign” the facility. That’s a fancy Washington term for “shut it down.” I knew what the facility meant to the community – after all, it’s nearly synonymous with Hot Springs itself – so there was no way it was going to shut down, at least while I had something to say about it. I was joined in the fight by a spirited community of veterans, VA employees and Hot Springs neighbors, and my colleagues in the delegation.

The ultimate goal has always been to take care of our veterans – there’s nothing more important than that. So, we went to work right away trying to convince then-VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and the previous administration to come to a different conclusion. It became clear pretty quickly that this decision was already made, and it seemed like they were essentially trying to kill the facility by starving it of resources.

In 2014, and every year since then, my legislation to prevent the closure of the Hot Springs facility has been adopted by Congress and signed into law. Until there was actually a national realignment strategy in place, I didn’t believe it was appropriate for Hot Springs to be on the chopping block. And today, the VA has yet to complete those plans, which has kept the facility’s doors open – but it has always been under a cloud of uncertainty.

Four years ago, rather than shutting the doors completely, the VA announced plans to move substantial parts of the Hot Springs facility to Rapid City, including the vital post-traumatic stress disorder program hosted in the historic domiciliary. While Washington bureaucrats may have thought the plan sounded good on paper, I didn’t think it was a viable option because it would leave a deep void in the “The Veterans Town,” in which South Dakota, Nebraska, and Wyoming veterans receive the care they need and deserve. So, the fight continued.

I’ve always believed in a collaborative approach to solve this problem, again, in order to fully serve the veterans in Hot Springs. For years, I’ve been trying to get the VA to simply listen to the community and hear what a closure would mean to everyone who depends on the medical center. We finally got that opportunity in 2016 when then-VA Secretary Bob McDonald visited Hot Springs, but the facility’s future remained threatened the following year after he signed the record of decision to finalize the misguided realignment.

Fast-forward to today. When I heard Secretary Wilkie would be traveling to Hot Springs in early March, a long-standing request from the delegation, I wanted to ensure we didn’t let this opportunity pass us by. After I learned the secretary’s original itinerary lacked any substantive interaction with the community, I organized an effort that ultimately resulted in the secretary modifying his schedule so he could hear firsthand from veterans and stakeholders. That meeting turned out to be the pivotal moment in this story.

To hear the secretary say the facility will not close and that he will look at what can be done to create a process that allows buy-in from our veterans, that is collaborative and not driven by a top-down bureaucratic process, that actually looks at the needs of our veterans – well, it was something I’ll never forget.

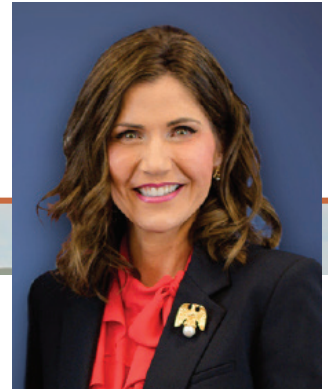
As simple as it might sound, to finally have an administration that was just willing to listen – to sit down at a table and have a conversation – it’s made all the difference in the world. Secretary Wilkie’s visit will be long-remembered, and the certainty and peace of mind he’s brought to the community is something I’m excited and humbled to have played a small role in helping achieve. The real credit goes to Hot Springs – to the community and the veterans the facility serves. This was a big win and a battle worth fighting.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR  
**KRISTI NOEM**



## Preserving our Veterans Town

The Hot Springs VA and the entire community have been providing care to America's veterans for more than 110 years, earning it the nickname "The Veterans Town." This facility was the first – and only – original National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers that was built for short-term medical needs and not a long-term veterans' home. It is renowned for its successful post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse treatment facility nestled in the tranquility of our Black Hills. There is no community so dedicated to making certain The Veterans Town delivers the services our heroes have earned.

Many of you know that in 2011, the Obama administration announced a reorganization proposal that included plans to close the doors of the VA hospital in Hot Springs. In addition to a total disregard for stakeholder grievances, this announcement was met with considerable controversy because it was supported by very suspect data.

While representing you in Congress, I partnered with many South Dakota veterans to battle the VA to keep the facility open. We fought hard to show the facts, including hosting a Congressional hearing in Hot Springs.

Despite the overwhelming evidence that our Hot Springs VA is one of the best in the nation, the facility and community have been forced to wait for new leadership in Washington to revisit the 2011 decision. That means for nearly a decade, there has been a persistent cloud of uncertainty surrounding The Veterans Town – recruitment and retention have suffered, urgent care hours have been reduced, and an overreliance on short-term contractors has been necessary.

In August of last year, President Trump made a promise that his administration would be "committed to taking care of every warrior that returns home as a veteran," and VA Secretary Wilkie has said we must put veterans at the center of their healthcare decisions.

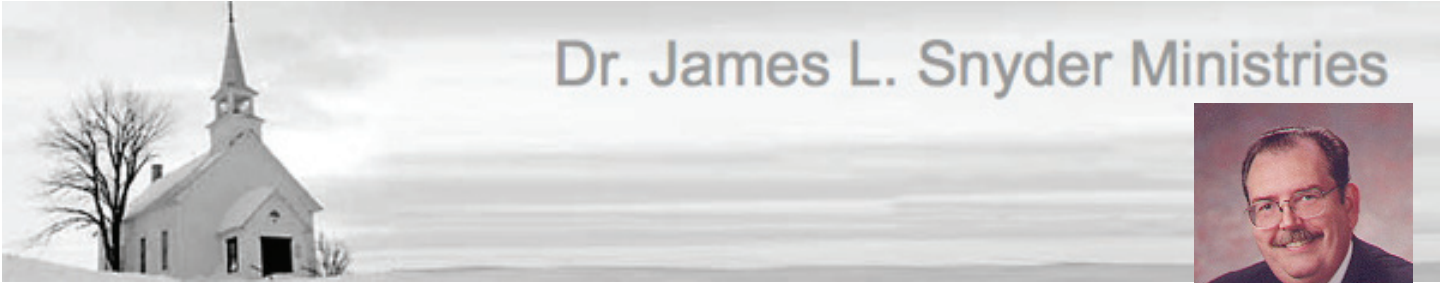
In early March – after years of persistent requests – Secretary Wilkie visited Hot Springs, and we FINALLY have a commitment to keep Hot Springs open and to revisit the record of decision.

This has been a long time coming, but I'm thankful to President Trump and Secretary Wilkie for keeping their promises and advocating for those who've served.

The Hot Springs community is so special and so unique. The care they provide our nation's veterans is unmatched, and I'm committed to doing all that I can to preserve our Veterans Town and ensure they can serve heroes in this way for another century to come.

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## Old Deals, New Wheels

A new resident has parked itself in the driveway of the parsonage. After ten years of the old resident parked outside, it is a nice change to see this new one.

For the past year, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has been looking for a new vehicle. When I say looking, I really mean, "Looking." She leaves no stone unturned in her quest, especially for a new vehicle.

My only qualification for a new vehicle is; can I afford it and does it run. However, not so with my wife. She spent the whole year researching every vehicle that caught her fancy. Just because it catches her fancy, does not mean that it latched onto her pocketbook.

For the past year, I have been going through the agony of listening to her complain about what is wrong with this one, and why don't they fix this on that one. She knows more about vehicles than I will ever know. Believe me!

After a year of searching, she finally found one that met her credentials. I did not believe it at first. I know it takes something very special to really please her. For her to come home one evening and say, "I finally found the van I want," was a shocking moment for me.

Do you know the thing that bothers me about this? It takes her over a year to find the vehicle she wants to buy, but it only took her five months to find the person she wanted to marry. I think that is rather strange, but I'm not going to delve into that in any degree. Could it be that I'm much better than a vehicle? I think I'll just leave it there.

I made a mistake once by going with her to a dealer to look at a vehicle. I was amazed to discover, well not too amazed, but she knew more about the vehicle on the lot than the salesman did.

After about 20 minutes of her describing all of the good and the bad of the vehicle, the salesman just looked at me and shook his head. No words were needed at that time.

Then for her to find a vehicle that satisfied her inquiries was quite the thing in and of itself.

When she found this particular vehicle, she was truly ecstatic. I really cannot blame her. After a year of searching, searching, and finding one and then discovering it was not what you wanted has to be a tiring experience; all the vehicles she rejected throughout the past year.

But the story is not over when she finds the vehicle she wants. It's really just beginning.

The next step, of course, is to go to the salesman and bargain for a good price.

I do not think the salesmen know what they are up against when my wife comes in wanting to buy a certain vehicle. At first, they smile, imagining they have made an easy sale. Boy, are they in for a big surprise.

It almost takes her longer to negotiate a price than it does for her to find a vehicle.

First, there has to be a trade-in price for her current vehicle. Trust me when I say, she knows just what it's worth and will not take a dime less. The salesman, on the other hand, thinks he can use her trade-in as a bargaining chip. Is he going to be surprised!

After the trade-in is settled comes the price for the new vehicle. According to her research, my wife knows exactly how much that vehicle is worth. I would not be surprised that she knows more about it than the salesman.

At this point, I would not want to be that salesman. Under no circumstances, I could ever think of, is he going to win. The only thing he will win is selling that vehicle.

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The next step is for her to drive the vehicle around to make sure everything is working. Nobody can do this better than she can. If up to me, if the engine starts, I am satisfied. If I can drive around the block, I am ecstatic.

Not so with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. After her intense inspection and trial run, she will know everything about that vehicle.

My job, although not as important as hers, is to sign all the paperwork, including the bank loan.

For the past week, I heard what a great deal she got and how wonderful this new van is. And, she should know because she did all of the work.

I am certainly not complaining, because, with her expertise in this area, I do not have to try to find a van for her. As she was exploiting all the merits of this new van, I just smiled because she was happy. You know the saying about a happy wife.

As she was going on about her van, I could not help but think of what Solomon said. "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life" (Proverbs 31:10-12).

I may not be as wise as Solomon, but like him, I made the find of a lifetime.



## S.D. electricity fight heats up in Pierre

**Nick Lowrey**

**South Dakota News Watch**

A long, simmering battle between electricity providers in South Dakota is coming to a head as the 2020 legislative session winds down, and at stake is the potential for faster economic growth in some cities versus the possibility of higher electric rates for rural residents.

The debate is raging between municipalities that provide electricity to residents and rural electric cooperatives that serve customers living outside of South Dakota's major cities, and it is one of the quietest but potentially highest-impact issues now being considered in Pierre.

Rural electric cooperatives are angered by what they say is the unfair loss of tens of millions of dollars' worth of potential revenue due to the unilateral taking of parts of their service territories and customers by growing cities that annex new lands and homes — a process now legal under state law.

The rural providers are backing legislation that would add new hurdles to the process by which municipal electric utilities take over a co-op's service territory and begin collecting utility payments from customers within the territory. The bill under consideration this session is the second attempt at a change in the law in the past two years and follows the failure of a 2019 legislative study committee to reach a compromise between the co-ops and the municipal utilities.

Leaders from several cities that own their own electric utilities have been fighting against any attempt to curtail their ability to take electric service territory when they grow. Some city and municipal utility leaders argue that restricting city-owned utilities from taking territory when needed will slow economic development and harm the state's overall growth in the long run.

The rural electric co-ops this session are pushing House Bill 1262, introduced by Rep. David Anderson, R-Hudson. The bill would force city-owned electric utilities to meet in-person with the electric utility provider whose territory is being taken before a takeover can happen. The bill would also give co-ops the ability to demand a court hearing to contest a service territory takeover they think was fraudulent or an abuse of discretion.

The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Commerce and Energy Committee at 10 a.m. on March 5. If the bill passes out of committee, it would move to the Senate floor either later that day or on March 9.

The conflict between electric co-ops and municipal utilities stems from a law known as the Territorial Act of 1975. During the 1970s, there was a nationwide public policy movement aimed at making the build-out of electrical infrastructure more efficient by giving various types of electric utility providers exclusive rights to serve pre-defined pieces of territory. That essentially created state-approved electric service monopolies for rural electric cooperatives, municipal utility departments and investor-owned utilities. The thinking was that by giving each electric utility a monopoly over their service territory, there would be less duplication of expensive infrastructure, which would keep rates down for end users.

"If we didn't have service territories and any company could build anywhere, you can imagine a residential city block and you have three electric companies running lines, poles and wires into a residential area each hoping to serve customers in that area, you can imagine how inefficient and, probably even from a safety perspective,



**East River Electric Cooperative serves as the electricity transmission co-op for eastern South Dakota and built this substation near Onida to serve the Ringneck Energy ethanol plant recently built in the city. Electric co-ops such as East River Electric have been trying to change state law in recent years to restrict the ability of municipal utilities to take service territory from co-ops.** Photo: Nick Lowrey, South

Dakota News Watch

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hazardous it would be," said Chris Nelson, one of South Dakota's three public utilities commissioners.

But not all monopolies are treated equally under the 1975 law. City-owned electric utilities, in particular, were given a powerful tool — the ability to take over neighboring service territory whenever they deem it necessary for a city's growth. Of the three types of electric utility providers in South Dakota, municipal electric departments are the only ones allowed to take territory without first coming to an agreement with the provider from which they are taking territory.

"As those municipalities, over the years, have continued to grow and continue to take territory from my member systems, the economic impacts have continued to elevate and it hurts. It stings," said Ed Anderson, general manager of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association.

There have been 18 takings of territory from rural electric cooperatives since 2010, Anderson said. Several of the takings included infrastructure and customers and most were done without the expressed consent of the co-op whose territory was being taken, he said.

City leaders in communities such as Brookings, Watertown, Vermilion and Volga say the bill would create new and unnecessary hurdles to their economic development efforts. Uncertainty and delays due to red tape, they say, can kill a city's bid to bring in a new factory or ethanol plant, for example.

"They want to know who's going to serve them and what's the cost going to be," said Steve Lehner, general manager of Watertown Municipal Utilities. "And if I can't tell them that, because the (co-op) can challenge in court for who has the right to serve, or challenge in court the cost that we're gonna pay, then that company is going to go look for another community."

## Cause for conflict

For several decades, the monopoly system created in 1975 worked pretty well. Power lines, substations and electric generation capacity expanded to serve most every customer that needed it. Rural electrical cooperatives worked closely with many of the state's 35 municipal electric utilities to build transmission lines and even provided emergency maintenance services.

But as the pace of growth sped up in cities such as Watertown and Brookings, two of the largest cities with their own electric utilities, the cities ran into the edges of their own defined service territories and started taking territory from neighboring rural electric co-ops. Those city-edge territories often became home to large, industrial customers who can generate a lot of money for the utility that sells them electricity. For cities, successfully recruiting such customers means more jobs and an increased tax base.

One recent example is the Bel Brands cheese plant in Brookings. The plant started construction in 2012 on land annexed into the city. The city's annexation included a takeover of electric service territory belonging to the Sioux Valley Energy co-op. At the time of annexation, there was no electric infrastructure on the ground, said Al Heuton, executive director of the Brookings Economic Development Corporation.

"The standard practice for industrial development has been for Brookings to acquire the land, and between the city of Brookings and Brookings municipal utilities, they install all the infrastructure," he said. "They're basically fronting the development costs."

Promising to take over electric service on the land slated for the Bel Brands plant allowed Heuton and other city leaders to guarantee to the company that electrical infrastructure would be in place and what rates for service would be. The certainty and potential for cost savings were critical to Brookings' successful bid for the plant, Heuton said.

"If we can't provide that here, then they're going to go somewhere else," Heuton said.

Building power lines and substations is expensive, but providing electricity is the easiest utility service from which to turn a profit and provides revenue municipal utilities need to cover their costs, Heuton said. Selling electricity has been especially lucrative for Brookings. The municipal utility company annually returns about \$2 million to the city's general fund, city budget documents show.

While cities such as Brookings have been able to expand their service territories and boost their revenues, rural electric co-op members have been forced to pay higher rates as a result, said Carrie Vugteveen, director of communications and government relations for Sioux Valley Energy.

Sioux Valley Energy, one of South Dakota's largest rural electricity cooperatives, estimates it has missed out on about \$21.5 million in revenue over the past 20 years that could have been generated on territory taken by city-



**Ed Anderson,**  
**South Dakota Rural**  
**Electric Association**

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owned utilities. The estimate is based on rates that could have been charged to businesses and residents in the lost territory, Vugteveen said.

Co-ops were created specifically to give rural residents a way to provide themselves with electricity. Co-ops are owned by the people they serve and their biggest interest is in getting and providing electricity as inexpensively as possible. Adding large industrial members to a co-op means fixed costs for maintenance or new infrastructure can be spread over more kilowatt hours, which in turn can reduce the rate each member (including residential customers) pays for each kilowatt hour they use.

There is no guarantee, however, that co-ops would end up serving large consumers such as Bel Brands even if municipal utilities' ability to take territory was restricted. A provision in the 1975 law allows consumers who contract to use at least two megawatts of electricity — more than double the average U.S. household's monthly usage — to choose who will provide their electricity.

Rural electric co-ops have won several large customers over the years by submitting bids, said Chris Studer, chief member and public relations officer for East River Electric, a cooperative that builds electricity transmission lines and substations for other co-ops. In recent years, the Blunt, S.D.-based Oahe Electric Cooperative won the right to serve the new Ringneck Energy ethanol plant in Onida, despite the plant being located within the city's municipal utility service territory.

Still, rural co-ops are often at a disadvantage when bidding against municipal utility departments. On average, the state's co-ops serve 2.5 members per mile of power line. Municipal utilities, meanwhile, serve roughly 42 customers per mile of line. Because they tend to serve members dispersed over large, rural areas, South Dakota electric co-ops have had to spend more on construction and maintenance of everything from power lines to power plants.

The result is that co-op members tend to pay slightly higher rates than municipal utility customers. Usually the difference winds up being a few cents per kilowatt hour, which can add up to several dollars on monthly bills.

"There's this misnomer out there that electric co-ops have much higher rates and that's just not the case, it just isn't," Vugteveen said. "We have bid on loads and we have won some of those loads. We can be competitive; we are competitive."

However, if municipal utilities continue to siphon away co-op customers, rates for rural residents could rise well above what they are now.

## No common ground

As far as municipal utilities are concerned, there is no problem with the current system of defined service territories. Any service territory takings that included customers and infrastructure have been or are being paid for. Municipal electric utilities are required to compensate co-ops and investor owned utilities when they take service territory. According to a formula included in the Territorial Act of 1975, when a municipal utility takes territory from another utility, it must pay a quarter of the gross revenue generated in the territory for seven of the first 11 years after the territory is taken.

Such compensation is fair and allows cities to grow and actively compete for to bring new employers to their communities and the state, said Heuton, the Brookings development official.

"For our purposes, it would be much better if nothing were to change," he said.

The problem, as co-ops see it, is that the compensation is both too little and too temporary, while territory takings are permanent.

"These are lost forever. It's not just, 'Oh we got it and now it's ours for the time being.' It is lost revenue until that business goes away or to the end of time," Studer said.

Since the year 2000, Sioux Valley Energy has received about \$2.1 million in compensation for territory takings that around Brookings alone have covered 2,600 acres of land, 1,600 homes and 81 businesses, Vugteveen said.

"We have fixed service territories, the investor owned utilities have fixed territories. But municipal electric utilities don't. That's where we see the inequity and the unfairness," she said.

That perceived unfairness has driven efforts by rural co-ops over the past two years to change state law. During the 2019 legislative session, Sen. Brock Greenfield, R-Clark, introduced a co-op-backed bill that would have prevented municipal utilities from arbitrarily taking any territory from another utility. Greenfield's 2019 bill ignited a furious debate before being gutted and re-written to create a 9-member legislative summer study committee



**Al Heuton, Brookings Economic Development Corporation**

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aimed at finding a compromise between co-ops and municipal utilities.

During the summer and fall of 2019, the study committee members spent more than 15 hours over three meetings listening to experts and lobbyists from co-ops and municipal utilities, as well as discussing the issue themselves. Ultimately, the 2019 study committee failed to find a workable compromise.

"The committee was set up to fail for the municipalities," said Lehner, the Watertown utility manager.

The committee was stacked so heavily in favor of co-ops, Lehner said, that he and other municipal officials complained to the Legislature's executive board. Many of the committee members had actually been co-sponsors of the original 2019 legislation, he said. And despite the many hours of testimony and discussion, the proposals that did arise from the committee's work weren't acceptable to municipal utilities.

Co-ops, though, helped write and found a sponsor this session for what became House Bill 1262, which they call a compromise. If the bill becomes law, it would force municipal utilities to give notice up to one year prior to taking service territory from another utility, to give co-ops a chance to negotiate for a better deal prior to territory being taken, and to give co-ops the option to challenge a territory taking in court. The co-ops see the legislation as necessary in order to level the playing field and protect their most vulnerable and remote customers from paying excessively high electricity rates.

Co-op officials also say they don't agree with municipality arguments that taking service territory is critical to recruiting new businesses.

Sioux Falls is a great example of how all types of utility providers can work together to boost a city's growth, Vugteveen said.

There are two co-ops — Sioux Valley and Southeastern Electric — serving members on the expanding edges of the city. Xcel Energy, an investor-owned utility, provides service to much of Sioux Falls and the city itself owns a small electric utility serving part of the city center and the airport. Sioux Falls hasn't had any problem growing despite the variety of electricity providers serving the area, Vugteveen said.

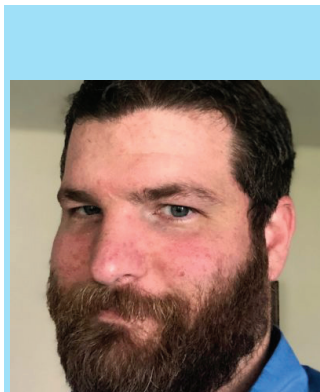
"We all work in concert with each other. This is how it can work," she said.

Lehner said the window to respond to requests for proposals from companies looking for a new location can close within days of the city receiving notification. If cities can say quickly and with certainty that it will be able to provide everything a business needs, the odds of winning the bid get much better, Lehner said. He vowed to keep fighting HB1262 even if the bill becomes law.

"Quite frankly, every business I lose because I can't tell them what their costs are going to be because of 1262, I'm going to make sure that people know about that. That's going to get into our press," Lehner said.



**Carrie Vugteveen,  
Sioux Valley Energy**



## **ABOUT NICK LOWREY**

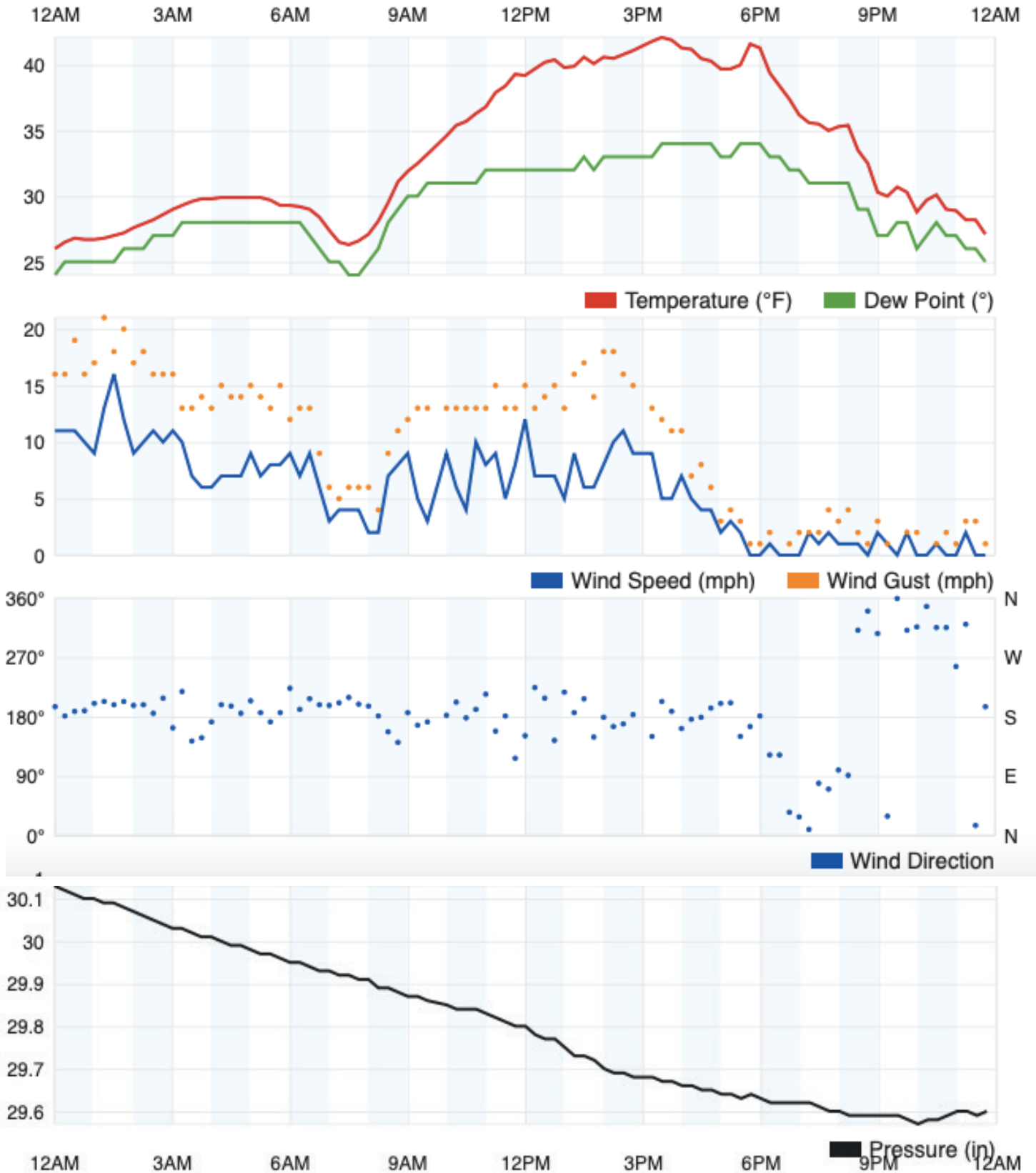
Nick Lowrey, based in Pierre, S.D., is an investigative staff reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A South Dakotan for more than 20 years, he is a former editor of the Pierre Capital Journal.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Partly Sunny

High: 49 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 20 °F

Monday



Mostly Sunny

High: 33 °F

Monday  
Night



Partly Cloudy

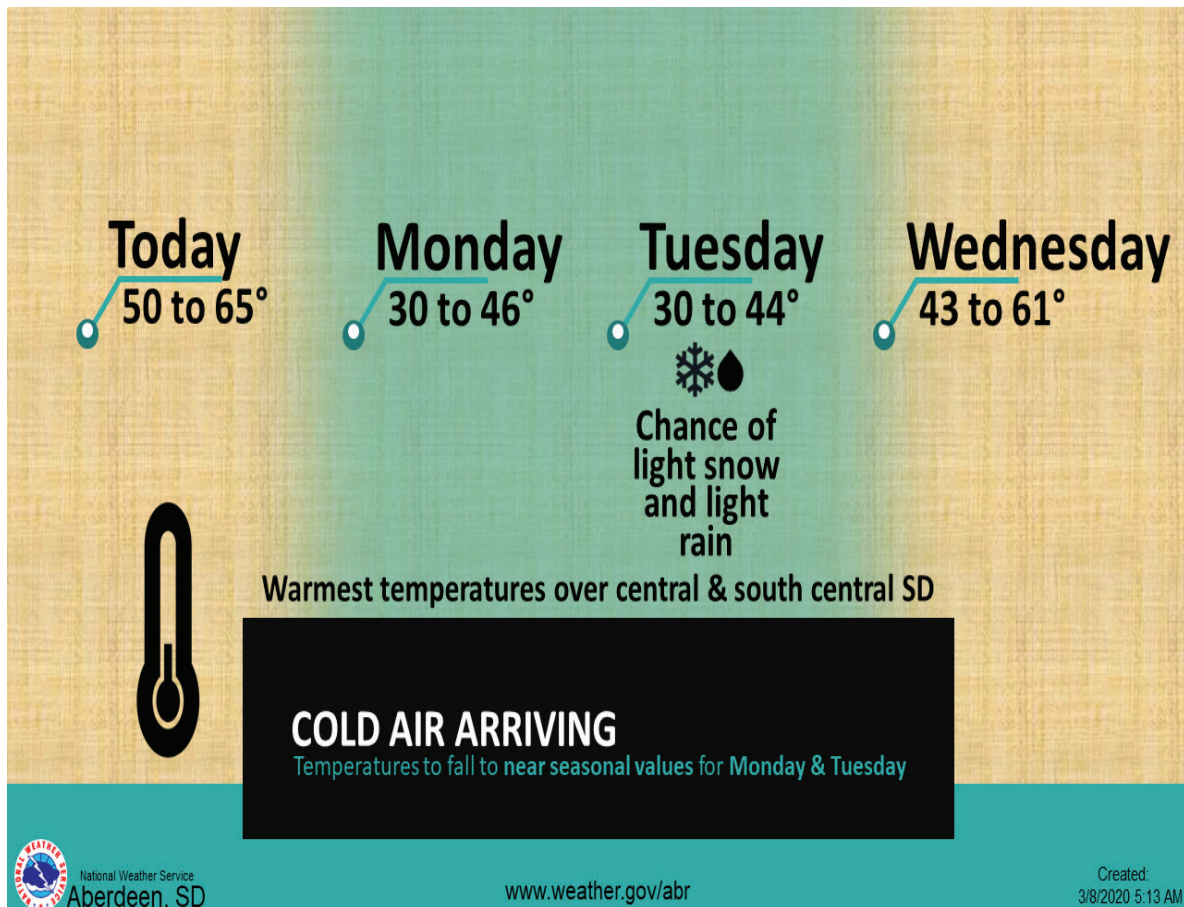
Low: 20 °F

Tuesday



Chance Snow

High: 34 °F



One last warm day today, before we cool back down to near seasonal values for Monday and Tuesday. While there is a chance of light snow and light rain in the forecast for Tuesday, precipitation amounts will be on the light side.

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## Today in Weather History

March 8, 2000: High winds of 30 to 50 mph, combined with 3 to 7 inches of snow, caused widespread blizzard conditions across north-central South Dakota. Many schools were closed early in the day. Travel was also significantly disrupted. Telephone service went down for several hours between Mobridge and Selby. Some heavy snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Eagle Butte, Selby, and Hoven, and 7 inches southwest of Keldron.

March 8, 2013: An area of low pressure moving across the region brought warm moist air overtop low-level cold air, which resulted in the widespread freezing rain across much of northeast South Dakota during the evening and into the early morning hours of the 8th and 9th. For much of the area, the precipitation changed over to all rain before ending as temperatures rose to above freezing. Ice accumulations ranged from a tenth of an inch to a half of an inch. Some ice accumulation reports include; 0.25 inches at Garden City, Hayti, Waubay, Clear Lake, Sisseton, and Summit, and 0.50 inches near Florence and Clark. Travel became hazardous, with no significant accidents reported. Also, no problems with power outages or tree damage were reported.

1909: The town of Brinkley, Arkansas, was struck by an estimated F4 tornado, which killed 49 people. The tornado, which was two-thirds of a mile wide, destroyed 860 buildings. Entire families were killed as houses were completely swept away by the storm.

1972: A wind gust of 207 mph was recorded at the Thule Air Force Base in Greenland. Winds were sustained at over 146 mph for three hours during the storm.

1989: While Arctic cold gripped the northeastern U.S., unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the southwestern states. Albany, New York reported a record low of 2 degrees below zero. Tucson, Arizona, reported a record high of 90 degrees.

1717 - On Fishers Island in Long Island Sound, 1200 sheep were discovered to have been buried under a snow drift for four weeks. When finally uncovered, one hundred sheep were still alive. (The Weather Channel)

1909 - The town of Brinkley AR was struck by a tornado which killed 49 persons and caused 600,000 dollars damage. The tornado, which was two-thirds of a mile in width, destroyed 860 buildings. Entire families were killed as houses were completely swept away by the tornado. Tornadoes killed 64 persons and injured 671 others in Dallas and Monroe counties during the Arkansas tornado outbreak. (David Ludlum)

1984 - A freak thunder snowstorm produced high winds, vivid lightning, and up to seven inches of snow in the northern suburbs of Washington D.C. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Thirty-two cities in the eastern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date, including Madison WI with a reading of 71 degrees. Afternoon highs of 68 degrees at Houghton Lake MI and 72 degrees at Flint MI smashed their previous records for the date by fourteen degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A cold front brought wintry weather to the north central U.S. Snowfall totals in northwestern Minnesota ranged up to eight inches at Roseau and Hallock. Winds in South Dakota gusted to 61 mph at Brookings. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - While arctic cold gripped the northeastern U.S., unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the southwestern states. Albany NY reported a record low of 2 degrees below zero. Tucson AZ reported a record high of 90 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

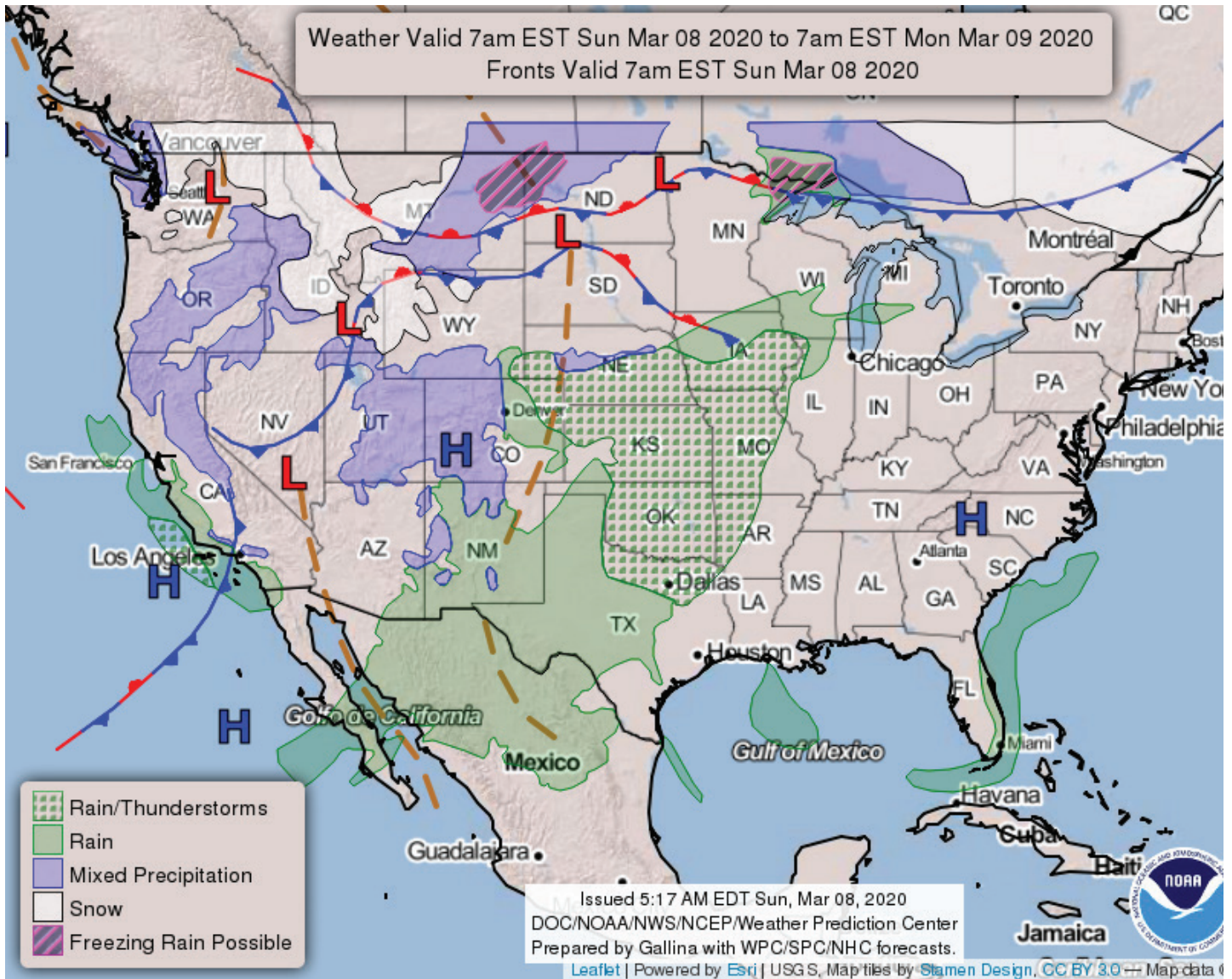
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 56 °F at 4:20 PM**  
**Low Temp: 36 °F at 6:40 AM**  
**Wind: 22 mph at 12:30 AM**  
**Snow**

**Record High: 58° in 1927, 1911**  
**Record Low: -32° in 1995**  
**Average High: 36°F**  
**Average Low: 17°F**  
**Average Precip in March.: 0.20**  
**Precip to date in March.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 1.22**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.35**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:31 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:56 a.m.**



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## " I KNOW I'M NOT LOST"

While driving through a rural area on dirt roads, a gentleman from the city became confused. He stopped at a farmhouse to ask directions. When the farmer came to the door, he asked, "Can you tell me how to get to Interstate 16?"

Shaking his head from side to side, the farmer replied, "Nope."

"Well, then," continued the lost tourist, "do you know where U.S. 301 is?"

Thinking for a moment, the farmer said, "Don't know that either."

Frustrated and confused, the driver blurted out, "You're stupid. You don't know anything!"

"Well," responded the farmer, "I know I'm not lost."

There are many things we may not know or understand about the Bible, but there is one thing we can know with certainty: whether or not we are lost and separated from God. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Even though there are many roads that take us to many places, there is only One Way that will lead us to God – Jesus Christ. In Him, we find God's truth and the road to eternal life.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for providing a simple, certain and sure way that will lead us to eternal life. Thank You for Your salvation and eternal life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: John 14:6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 03/14/2020 Youth Girls/Boys Basketball Tourney Grades 4th-6th (Baseball/Softball Foundation Fundraiser)
  - 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
  - 04/04/2020 Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
  - 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
  - 04/25-26/2020 Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
  - 04/26/2020 Father/Daughter dance.
  - 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
  - 05/11/2020 Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
  - 06/05/2020 Athletic Fundraiser at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
  - 06/19/2020 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/20/2020 Shriner's Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/22/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ladies Invitational
  - 06/26/2020 Groton Businesses Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
  - 07/16/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Golf Tourney
  - 07/31-08/04/2020 State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
  - 08/07/2020 Wine on Nine Event at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
  - 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic
  - 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
  - 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
  - 10/31/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat
  - 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
  - 11/14/2020 Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
  - 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
  - 12/05/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
  - 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
  - 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates
- 
- Bingo every Wednesday 6:30pm at the American Legion Post #39
  - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Meat, American Legion Post #39 7pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
  - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Pizza, Jungle Lanes 8pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
- 
- All dates are subject to change, check for updates here

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## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

05-07-22-32-34

(five, seven, twenty-two, thirty-two, thirty-four)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

01-13-14-24-25, Star Ball: 1, ASB: 3

(one, thirteen, fourteen, twenty-four, twenty-five; Star Ball: one; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$8.55 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$75 million

Powerball

07-15-21-33-62, Powerball: 23, Power Play: 2

(seven, fifteen, twenty-one, thirty-three, sixty-two; Powerball: twenty-three; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$100 million

### Purdue Fort Wayne upsets South Dakota St. in Summit tourney

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Matt Holba scored 21 points and No. 7 seed Purdue Fort Wayne upset second-seeded South Dakota State 77-74 on Saturday night in a Summit League tournament quarterfinal.

Purdue Fort Wayne (14-18) will play Sunday's South Dakota-North Dakota winner in a semifinal on Monday night.

Noah Freidel scored 35 points to lead South Dakota State (22-10), which has lost two straight since having an eight-game win streak snapped. Alex Arians added 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Jackrabbits.

Jarred Godfrey and Deonte Billups had 12 points apiece for the Mastodons. Brian Patrick chipped in 11 points.

Purdue Fort Wayne had a 75-71 lead with 22 seconds remaining. Freidel's 3-pointer pulled the Jackrabbits to 75-74 with 14.4 seconds left, but Marcus DeBerry answered with an easy layup with 6.6 seconds to go. The Jackrabbits were without a timeout, had Freidel on the bench and couldn't get a shot off in time.

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

### Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL=

Class AA SoDak 16=

First Round=

Brandon Valley 52, Aberdeen Central 48

Huron 84, Douglas 48

Rapid City Central 52, Sioux Falls Lincoln 48

Rapid City Stevens 74, Harrisburg 49

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 77, Watertown 58

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 68, Mitchell 50

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Sioux Falls Washington 69, Spearfish 47  
Yankton 65, Sturgis Brown 39

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

## Authorities investigating fire in Sioux Falls bakery

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in Sioux Falls are investigating a fire that broke out in a combination apartment building and bakery near the city's downtown.

KELO-TV reports firefighters responded to the fire around 3 a.m. Saturday and contained the flames within five minutes of arriving. The fire forced two people to flee the apartment. No one was hurt but the bakery sustained smoke damage.

Authorities believe the fire started with some smoldering debris outside the apartment, which is located at the rear of the building. Their investigation continues.

## Man rescued from South Dakota grain bin

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A man is recovering after spending hours trapped in a grain bin near Pierre.

KCCR Radio reports that the man became trapped in the bin east of Pierre on Friday afternoon. Pierre Fire Chief Ian Paul says firefighters arrived to find local residents had tied a rope around the man to keep him from sinking any deeper.

Firefighters tried to free the man by building a wall around him and scooping out the grain inside the wall but Paul said grain kept seeping back in. They ultimately cut holes in the side of the bin to let grain flow out in a controlled release.

Firefighters spent nearly five hours on the scene. The man suffered non-life threatening injuries.

## No. 17-ranked S. Dakota women dismantle Omaha by 59

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Ciara Duffy scored 17 points and Monica Arens 16 and No. 17-ranked South Dakota gashed Omaha 99-40 on Saturday in the quarterfinals of the Summit League Tournament.

The Coyotes (28-2) entered the tournament as the top seed having gone 16-0 in league play. South Dakota will play the winner of Sunday's quarterfinal game between No. 4-seed Oral Roberts and fifth-seeded Western Illinois. Omaha (7-23) was the No. 8 seed having won just two games in conference.

South Dakota never trailed. Duffy scored seven of the Coyotes' first 16 points when her layup with 4:46 left in the first quarter made it 16-6. South Dakota outscored Omaha 15-3 to end the quarter for a 31-9 lead. Not until Sophie Johnson's layup with 8:45 before intermission did the Mavericks reach double figures. The basket made it 34-11. The Coyotes led 64-18 at halftime having made 21 of 34 shots including 8 of 9 from 3-point range.

Ella Ogier led Omaha with 13 points and Mariah Murdie scored 10.

More AP women's basketball: <https://apnews.com/Womenscollegebasketball> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## Police remind panhandlers of rules as spring approaches

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls are laying down the ground rules for panhandlers as spring approaches.

The Argus Leader reports that officers are warning drivers that they could see more panhandlers on highway on-ramps and exists as the weather warms up.

They say holding a sign in a public place is legal but stepping into traffic to accept money or goods isn't. "It's not so much that they're out there with a sign, trying to get items from motorists," Sgt. Travis Olsen said. "It's that they're collecting it from motorists in traffic. That's where these folks can wind up getting



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charged with panhandling.”

Stopping in traffic to give panhandlers something is illegal. Soliciting money or goods on private property also is illegal, police said. Door-to-door solicitors must have a city peddler’s permit as well as proof of a state sales tax license, Olsen said, and they can be challenged on the spot to provide the documentation.

## Wildlife officials scale back nest-raider bounty program

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota wildlife officials have decided to scale back Gov. Kristi Noem’s program that pays bounties for predators that raid migratory birds’ nests.

KELO-TV reports that the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission voted 6-2 on Friday to extend the program for a second year. But the commission reduced the spending cap from \$500,000 to \$250,000. It also reduced the size of the bounty from \$10 per tail from a raccoon, striped skunk, opossum, red fox or badger to \$5 per tail. Bounties will now be paid regardless of whether the predator is shot or trapped; last year bounties applied only if a predator was trapped.

The program starts April 1 and runs through July 1. Only South Dakota residents can participate.

Chairman Gary Jensen and Mary Anne Boyd were the only two commissioners who voted against continuing the program. Jensen said science doesn’t support the program and it’s designed to help trappers, whom he says are doing well anyway.

## Royal farewell: Harry, Meghan on final duty before new life

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — It’s definitely a farewell. But will it be fond?

Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, will fulfill their final royal commitment when they appear Monday at the annual Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey in London. It’s the last time they will be seen at work with the entire royal Windsor clan before they fly off into self-imposed exile in North America.

The service marks the end of a two-month drama that began when the couple announced plans to walk away from their roles as senior members of Britain’s royal family and into a world where they will have to earn a living, pay their own way and even open some doors for themselves.

It’s uncharted territory for the House of Windsor, even as the family seeks to downsize.

“I think this is a blow because I don’t think (the Windsors) would have envisaged that the slimmed-down monarchy would have actually meant that there was no role for Meghan and Harry,” said Pauline Maclaran, co-author of “Royal Fever: The British Monarchy in Consumer Culture.” “I mean, they really brought a new dimension to the royal family brand.”

It wasn’t supposed to happen this way.

Less than two years ago, Harry and Meghan were seen as a golden couple that would help extend the royal family’s appeal to a new generation. Their wedding on May 19, 2018, united a grandson of 93-year-old Queen Elizabeth II with the former Meghan Markle, a bi-racial American actress who had starred for seven years on the U.S. television series “Suits.” George Clooney, Serena Williams and Elton John attended their wedding at Windsor Castle, which ended with the royal couple kissing for their flag-waving fans and riding through the streets in a horse-drawn carriage.

But the horses were barely back at the stable before pressures intensified on the couple, who became the Duke and Duchess of Sussex on their wedding day.

Even before the ceremony, Britain’s tabloid newspapers featured stories about a rift between Meghan and her father. When Meghan became pregnant, some commentators criticized her for jetting off to New York for a baby shower, a strange American tradition to many in Britain. Others lampooned Meghan’s politically correct pronouncements on the environment and women’s rights.

Meghan’s supporters saw racism at work. Harry publicly defended his wife and directed his anger at the intrusive media he has resented all his life because of the paparazzi’s role in chasing his mother, Princess

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Diana, on the night in 1997 when she died in a Paris car accident.

The prince himself was stung by media reports of a split between him and his older brother, Prince William. The notion that the brothers and their glamorous wives would be a royal "Fab Four" for the 21st century began to fade.

"For me, and for my wife, of course there's a lot of stuff that hurts, especially when the majority of it is untrue," Harry, 35, told ITV News last fall. "I will not be bullied into playing a game that killed my mum."

Then in January, the couple sparked a royal crisis when they revealed that they intended to step back from their duties as senior members of the royal family. The move came after holiday pictures were released of the queen along with son Prince Charles, grandson Prince William and great-grandson Prince George. The future was pictured and Harry wasn't part of it.

In a personal statement, Harry and Meghan revealed that they intended to become "financially independent" and "balance" their time between the U.K. and North America, while continuing to honor and serve the queen. They wanted, in essence, to be part-time royals.

Hours later, Buckingham Palace issued a statement hinting that this part-time notion had caught some in the royal household by surprise. Discussions with the Duke and Duchess, it said, were "at an early stage."

With his ginger hair, close-cropped beard and easy manner, Harry had become one of the royal family's most popular members after shedding the hard-partying image of his youth. The youngest son of Charles and the late Princess Diana, Harry is sixth in line to the throne, after his father, William and William's three children. More importantly, he and William were seen as a new generation who would modernize the royals.

But there's no precedent for a part-time role in the House of Windsor's family firm. After all, Edward VIII was largely shunned by the royal family after he abdicated the throne to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson in 1936.

Anguish followed the dueling announcements.

Aggrieved taxpayers insisted that Harry and Meghan repay the 2.4 million pounds (\$3.1 million) of public money spent to renovate the house in Windsor where they had planned to live. Their social media feeds, normally full of heart-shaped emoticons, were flooded with ill-tempered commentary about their decision to abandon Britain.

A family summit sought to hash out a way forward.

Finally, the queen stepped in: Harry and Meghan would stop carrying out royal duties in March, would pay back the renovation costs and would receive no public money after they stepped aside. While Harry and Meghan would always be part of the royal family, they won't be allowed to use the word "royal" to earn a living.

That meant the couple had to abandon plans to use the "SussexRoyal" brand they had sought to trademark.

So, what now?

Well to start with, they won't use their royal titles.

But other issues remain: how will Harry and Meghan earn a living and who will pay for their security, which has until now been financed by U.K. taxpayers? The Canadian government has said it will not.

The couple are expected to earn their keep at least partly through speaking engagements — sort of like the Obamas. They already spoke at a JPMorgan investment conference last month in Florida, but it isn't known whether they were paid.

Simon Morgan, a former royal protection officer, estimates their security costs at "several million" pounds a year.

"When you look at the royal family, their security package is very much built on a model from cradle to grave," said Morgan, the director of operations and training for the security firm Trojan Consultancy. "It's built on an element of rapport and trust ... when we talk about the cost, the initial setup of that team will be quite important."

But many royal watchers are more interested in what caused this seismic shift in the British monarchy. Some blame Meghan, who admitted last year that adjusting to royal life had been difficult.

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The 38-year-old Los Angeles native graduated from Northwestern University and carved out a career in movies and television long before she met Harry. The couple's first child, Archie, was born in May 2019.

Harry and Meghan's agreement with the queen calls for their decision to be revisited in a year. They may choose to return to front-line duties, where their super-celebrity status allows them to highlight their favorite causes.

But will they miss it? Harry alluded to his own bond with the British military during a speech supporting the Endeavour Fund, which helps wounded service personnel use sports to recover from their injuries.

"A lot of you tonight have told me you have my back," he said in a veiled reference to his royal struggles. "Well I'm also here to tell you, I've always got yours."

Read more AP stories about the British monarchy at <https://apnews.com/PrinceHarry>

## Targets of crackdown in China fear government's reach in US

By **BEN FOX** and **CHRISTINA LARSON** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The photo of his father was barely recognizable. The old man looked unusually pale and tired, and his customary beard was shaved off. The son who received the photo over WhatsApp was immediately suspicious.

He hadn't heard from his family in western China for two years while he studied at a U.S. university.

His family are Uighurs, a predominantly Muslim ethnic group that has become the target of a massive crackdown in China. Since 2017, more than 1 million people have been confined to internment camps and many more are monitored in their own homes.

Why would he get this message now? And why would it come over WhatsApp? The messaging platform is censored for ordinary people in China, but often is used by authorities.

No words accompanied the photo, but he interpreted it as a kind of warning.

"I feel like I'm being watched even in the United States," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he fears reprisals from the Chinese government. "They have all of our information. They know where we live."

Such fear of surveillance has become a fact of life for thousands of Uighurs living outside China and struggling to rebuild lives abroad, while family and friends go missing in China's western Xinjiang region. Within China, the State Department says, many Uighurs have been subjected to torture and other abuse.

Even Uighurs who now live in the relative safety of the United States, where their situation has sparked bipartisan concern in Congress, say they still fear being monitored and worry that speaking freely may spur reprisals against family members in Xinjiang.

"I hear these stories all the time," said Kuzzat Altay, president of the Uighur American Association whose own father renounced him in a video released by Chinese authorities on social media. "People come to me crying."

Altay, who came to the U.S. as a refugee and has become a citizen, started a Uighur entrepreneurship network outside Washington. But most of the 25 members dropped out at the urging of family members in Xinjiang who had been visited by local authorities.

Altay said he thinks Chinese authorities worried that his entrepreneurship group would have discussed the crackdown back home.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington did not respond to a request for comment.

Ferkat Jawdat is a naturalized American citizen who came to the U.S. nine years ago and works as a software engineer in Virginia. His mother was taken into the Xinjiang internment camps in 2018.

Last May, when she was briefly released, she called and told him not to speak out about Uighur issues. He later learned from relatives that she had contacted him at police insistence and was taken back into police custody the very next day.

The Chinese government is broadly suspicious of Uighurs who have spent significant time abroad, said Brian Mezger, an immigration lawyer who specializes in Uighur asylum cases.

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"The Chinese government views exposure to foreign influence as basically polluting the Uighurs," said Mezger, whose practice is based in Rockville, Maryland.

A dozen Uighurs in the U.S. interviewed by The Associated Press, most of whom did not want their names used, described various forms of intimidation.

They described calls from Chinese government officials instructing them to "check in" at Chinese consulates. Some were told their Chinese passports would not be renewed and were offered one-way travel documents back to China. Several said relatives back home were visited by local police looking for information about family members abroad.

The young man who received the photo of his father in June, two years after family members in Xinjiang warned him to cut off contact, says he doesn't know what authorities wanted from him.

He also received a series of unsettling text messages in the Uighur language, but he responded in Chinese to ask why the sender had contacted him. The person sending the messages said that if he wanted to have a video chat with my father, he could arrange it. "He wouldn't say what he wanted from me."

These accounts of harassment match reports compiled by activists and human rights groups, including Amnesty International, which last month documented widespread fear of surveillance and retribution among 400 Uighurs living in 22 countries.

The Uighur global diaspora is estimated to be between 1 million and 1.6 million people.

There are several thousand Uighurs in the United States, with the largest concentration living in the Washington D.C. area.

"This is happening to people's neighbors, to fellow Americans — that's what's so scary," said Francisco Bencosme, an Asia-Pacific advocacy manager for Amnesty International.

Uighurs qualify for asylum in the U.S. because today they face almost certain detention if they return to China, said Mezger, who has represented hundreds of people from Xinjiang. He said nearly all of his cases have been successful.

The wait for asylum, however, can take years and the anxiety can be grueling.

"Even if you're free in the U.S., you can't leave the U.S. while your asylum application is pending," said James Millward, a professor of history who researches Xinjiang at Georgetown University. "If you have relatives in Europe or Canada, you can't go see them. You can't travel there for work. And you may have to wait for years."

Xinjiang, which means "new frontier" in Chinese, was brought under control of Chinese authorities in Beijing in the 19th century. But the western desert region has longstanding cultural, religious, and linguistic ties to Central Asia and to Turkey.

Uighurs have faced numerous previous persecution and assimilation campaigns by the Chinese government.

An enhanced security state began to take shape in Xinjiang after 2009, when race riots left around 200 people dead in the capital city of Urumqi. In recent years, surveillance cameras and police checkpoints have become ubiquitous.

The government began to build internment camps in 2017 as a means of intimidation and social control. Former camp detainees have previously told the AP that after being confined in the camps, they were forced to renounce their faith and swear fealty to China's ruling Communist Party.

Uighurs face limits on the use of their language in schools, their ability to check into hotels and restrictions on cultural practices such as wearing beards and fasting during religious holidays.

The government's goal is to "eradicate Uighur culture," said Dolkun Isa, president of the World Uighur Congress.

He added that social controls have grown more stringent since the inception of Chinese leader Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative — an overseas infrastructure funding policy — has enhanced the strategic importance of Xinjiang's location bordering Central Asia.

China's foreign ministry regularly bristles at international criticism of policies in Xinjiang, which it views as an internal matter. It has said that measures in Xinjiang are intended to curb religious extremism and that the detention camps are "vocational centers," where people are held voluntarily. But it has refused

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to permit independent monitors to visit.

It's not possible to confirm that the intimidating messages received by Uighurs abroad come from Chinese officials. But the Uighurs' accounts of harassment have been consistent enough that both Republicans and Democrats in Congress back legislation that would require the FBI to help protect Uighurs in the United States.

The young man who received the photo of his father and the string of suspicious messages said he called the FBI and that two agents met with him. The agency wouldn't comment on whether it investigated the particular case, but said in a statement, "Without discussing specifics, we take all reports of threats or intimidation seriously."

Meanwhile, the man has continued his studies while he awaits a decision on his asylum application and worries about relatives in China. "They could punish my family, if they haven't already sent them to the camps, because I didn't cooperate."

"Even if you have physical freedom, it's very difficult to escape the reach of the Chinese government," said Mezger, the attorney.

## Bahrain F1 to run without fans due to virus as markets fall

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Bahrain's Formula One race this month will be run without spectators over fears about the new coronavirus, the island kingdom announced Sunday, as Mideast stock markets fell sharply amid plummeting demand for crude oil and OPEC's inability to agree on a production cut.

The decision by Bahrain is just the latest disruption felt by the Mideast over the virus and the COVID-19 illness it causes. The wider Mideast now has over 6,970 confirmed cases of the virus. The majority are in hard-hit Iran, where the reported death toll jumped by 25% Sunday to 194 out of 6,566 confirmed cases.

Bahrain's Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad's announcement on the F1 was carried by the state-run Bahrain News Agency. The crown prince said the decision was "to preserve the safety of citizens, residents and racing fans." The race is scheduled for March 22.

"As an F1 host nation, balancing the welfare of supporters and race goers is a tremendous responsibility," the Bahrain International Circuit said in a statement. "Given the continued spread of COVID-19 globally, convening a major sporting event, which is open to the public and allows thousands of international travellers and local fans to interact in close proximity would not be the right thing to do at the present time."

Bahrain, an island nation off the coast of Saudi Arabia in the Persian Gulf, has so far reported 79 confirmed cases of the new coronavirus. The kingdom has drastically cut air travel and urged residents who recently traveled from Iran to present themselves for testing, warning that those who don't could face prosecution.

The decision to run the race with participants only was an extraordinary decision for Bahrain and F1. It cancelled its 2011 F1 race over Arab Spring protests there, but held the race in 2012 with fans in attendance.

The decision came as Australia is still set to hold its F1 Grand Prix on March 13 with spectators. F1 did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Meanwhile Sunday, stock markets across the Mideast suffered sharp drops.

Hardest-hit was Bursa Kuwait, which saw shares fall more than 10%. The losses triggered an automatic shutdown of the Kuwaiti stock market, its second in recent days.

The Dubai Financial Market closed down 7.87%. The Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange fell 5.37%.

Saudi Arabia's Tadawul stock exchange fell over 8% in active trading, with its marquee Saudi Aramco stock falling below its initial public offering price for the first time. The state-run Saudi Arabian Oil Co. offered a sliver of its value to investors on the market in December.

The Egyptian stock market's benchmark index, the EGX 30, fell nearly 4%.

OPEC and key ally Russia failed to agree on a cut to oil production Friday. That saw crude oil prices, the bedrock commodity of the Mideast, drop. Benchmark Brent crude sold Sunday for around \$45 a barrel, down some 11% from the year prior.

The demand for oil has dropped as air travel has been affected by the outbreak of the virus.

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Iran Air, the Islamic Republic's flag carrier, meanwhile announced it would stop all its flights into Europe amid the outbreak, the semiofficial ISNA news agency reported Sunday. Iran Air said it was in negotiations to resume its European flights, ISNA said. It did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, with the approach of Iran's Persian New Year, known as Nowruz, officials kept up pressure on people not to travel and to stay home. Health Ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour, who gave Iran's new casualty figures Sunday, reiterated that people should not even attend funerals.

Already, authorities threatened the public that they could use "force" to stop people from leaving major cities. Provinces on the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf also have urged people not to travel there for the upcoming holiday.

"I urge people to be careful and avoid unnecessary commuting and traveling," President Hassan Rouhani said, according to state television.

Associated Press writers Malak Harb in Dubai, Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, and Samy Magdy in Cairo contributed.

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.

## With painted faces, artists fight facial recognition tech

By **KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writer**

LONDON (AP) — As night falls in London, Georgina Rowlands and Anna Hart start applying makeup. Instead of lipstick and eyeliner, they're covering their faces with geometric shapes.

Rowlands has long narrow blue triangles and thin white rectangles criss-crossing her face. Hart has a collection of red, orange and white angular shapes on hers.

They're two of the four founders of the Dazzle Club, a group of artists set up last year to provoke discussion about the growing using of facial recognition technology.

The group holds monthly silent walks through different parts of London to raise awareness about the technology, which they say is being used for "rampant surveillance." Other concerns include its lack of regulation, inaccuracy and how it affects public spaces.

Some 19 people attended the most recent event in the East London neighborhood of Shoreditch, and anyone can take part in the walks, in which participants have to paint their faces in a style called CV Dazzle.

The technique, developed by artist and researcher Adam Harvey, is aimed at camouflaging against facial detection systems, which turn images of faces into mathematical formulas that can be analyzed by algorithms. CV Dazzle - where CV is short for computer vision - uses cubist-inspired designs to thwart the computer, said Rowlands.

"You're trying to kind of scramble that by applying these kind of random colors and patterns," she said. "The most important is having light and dark colors. So we often go for blacks and whites, very contrasting colors, because you're trying to mess with the shadows and highlights of your face."

A similar technique was used extensively in World War I to camouflage British naval ships and confuse opponents about the actual heading or location of the ships.

To test that their designs work, they use the simple face detection feature on their smartphone cameras. "I can see that I'm hidden, it's not detecting me," Rowlands said, checking her phone to see her face doesn't have a square around it.

The rise of facial recognition technology is being tested and spreading in developed democracies after aggressive use in some more authoritarian countries like China.

Britain has long been used to surveillance cameras in public spaces to counter security threats, and London is ranked as having one of the world's highest concentrations of closed-circuit television cameras. But that acceptance is being tested as authorities and corporations increasingly seek to deploy a new generation of cameras with facial recognition technology while activists, lawmakers and independent experts raise concerns about mass surveillance, privacy, and accuracy.

Opposition to algorithmic surveillance is not limited to Britain. Russia activists were reportedly arrested last month for holding a similar face paint protest over Moscow's facial recognition cameras. Hong Kong pro-democracy activists routinely use face masks in street protests to hide their identities. Rights groups in Serbia and Uganda have opposed government projects to install Chinese-supplied cameras.

Other designers have come up with countermeasures like sunglasses that reflect infrared light to blind cameras.

"There is a movement of resistance against facial recognition that we are actively participating in and we want to kind of further initiate," said Rowlands.

Rowlands, Hart and two other artists founded the Dazzle Club in August, following news that London's King's Cross district — a busy transport hub where many big offices are being built rapidly — had quietly experimented with live facial recognition cameras without public knowledge or consent, sparking a backlash.

London police recently started using live facial recognition cameras on operational deployments. Last week officers arrested a woman wanted for assault after the cameras picked her out of a street crowd on a busy shopping street. Police say new technology is needed to keep the public safe and images of innocent people are deleted immediately.

Public attitudes to facial recognition technology in Britain appear to be mixed, according to one survey last year, which found most people said they don't know enough about it but nearly half said they should be able to opt out.

The Dazzle Club's founders say they're worried about the effect that the technology has on people in public if cameras are collecting their biometric data — facial images — without clearly explaining what's being done with it.

"We're having to adjust our behavior in public space in a way that I think is problematic," said Hart.

Read more AP stories on developments in technology at <https://apnews.com/apf-technology>

## Travel chaos erupts as Italy quarantines north to halt virus

By PAOLO SANTALUCIA and YURI KAGEYAMA Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy announced a sweeping quarantine early Sunday for its northern regions, igniting travel chaos as it restricted the movements of a quarter of its people in a bid to halt the new coronavirus' relentless march across Europe.

Shortly after midnight, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte signed a decree affecting 16 million people in the country's prosperous north, including the Lombardy region and at least 14 provinces in neighboring regions. The extraordinary measures will be in place until April 3.

"For Lombardy and for the other northern provinces that I have listed, there will be a ban for everybody to move in and out of these territories and also within the same territory," Conte said. "Exceptions will be allowed only for proven professional needs, exceptional cases and health issues."

Around the world, other countries have been increasingly imitating China — where the virus first emerged late last year — by imposing travel controls and shutting down public events. China has suffered about three-fourths of the world's 106,000 coronavirus infections and most of its nearly 3,600 deaths.

There was chaos and confusion in the hours before Conte signed the decree, as word leaked to the news media about the planned quarantine. Students at the University of Padua in northern Italy who had been out at bars on a Saturday night saw the rumors on their cellphones and rushed back to their apartments to grab their belongings and head to the train station.

Hundreds of passengers, some wearing face masks and rubber gloves, crammed onto the last local train leaving Padua at 11:30 p.m. Anxious students wrapped scarves around their heads, shared sanitizing gel, and sat on their suitcases in the aisles. No conductor came by to check tickets.

"I read two hours ago that they may be putting out an urgent decree putting Padua in the red zone. Because I would like to return down south to my relatives, I decided to go earlier," said one student, Ro-

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berto Pagliara, who moved up a planned Tuesday departure for his hometown of Puglia in southern Italy.

Italy on Saturday reported its biggest daily increase in coronavirus cases since its outbreak began on Feb. 21. The number of infected people rose 1,247 in the previous 24 hours, taking the total to 5,883. Italy's death toll rose to 233.

Regional politicians were taken aback by the lockdown. Stefano Bonaccini, president of the Emilia Romagna region, said parts of the decree were confusing. The mayor of Asti, in the Piedmont region, posted an irate video on his Facebook page slamming Rome for not keeping regional leaders in the loop.

"Nobody told me," Maurizio Rasero screamed, adding that he had hundreds of messages on his cell phone from alarmed citizens. "It's incredible that information that is so delicate and important would come out in the newspaper first."

The fate of foreign visitors stuck in red zones in northern Italy was not immediately clear.

The move echoed China's lockdown of some 60 million people in central Hubei province in late January, which is now in its sixth week. China's harsh travel restrictions came too late to prevent infected people from seeding outbreaks elsewhere, but the World Health Organization has credited the lockdown with slowing the spread of the virus and "buying the world time" to handle the outbreak.

With a nose-dive in tourist traffic and disruptions to supply chains, stocks got off to another rocky start Sunday as Mideast indexes opened down 6% to 8%.

Around the world, more events and festivals were called off, including the women's world hockey championships in Canada. Bahrain said its Formula One race this month will take place without spectators over virus fears. Japan's time-honored grand sumo tournament opened Sunday in Osaka to no fans and wrestlers arrived wearing face masks.

The virus outbreak has left the cruise ship industry in disarray.

The Grand Princess cruise ship, where 21 people have tested positive for the virus, was headed to the port of Oakland, California, after idling off San Francisco for days. There is evidence the ship was the breeding ground for a deadly cluster of almost 20 cases during an earlier voyage.

"Those that will need to be quarantined will be quarantined," U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said. "Those who will require medical help will receive it."

The ship, which is carrying more than 3,500 people from 54 countries, is expected to reach Oakland on Monday. According to the ship's captain, guests who require acute medical treatment will be transported to health care facilities in California; healthy Californians will go into quarantine in state; other U.S. residents will go to quarantines elsewhere; the crew will be quarantined and treated aboard the ship.

Grand Princess Capt. John Smith said he was not yet told what will happen to passengers from other countries.

In Egypt, a cruise ship on the Nile carrying more than 150 people was under quarantine in the southern city of Luxor after 45 people on board tested positive for the virus.

The port of Penang in Malaysia turned away the Costa Fortuna cruise ship because 64 of the 2,000 aboard are from Italy. The ship, which had already been rejected by Thailand, was heading to Singapore.

And in Malta, which reported its first case of the virus Saturday, the MSC Opera ship agreed not to enter the Mediterranean country's port amid local worries — even though there are no infections suspected on board. The ship continued to Messina, Sicily, where passengers were allowed to disembark.

In the United States, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urged older adults and people with severe medical conditions to "stay home as much as possible" and avoid crowds. A federal official told The Associated Press that the White House had overruled health officials who wanted to recommend that elderly and sick Americans not fly on commercial airlines. The U.S. death toll from the virus climbed to 19, with all but three victims in Washington state.

While many scientists said the world is clearly in the grips of a pandemic — a serious global outbreak — the World Health Organization isn't calling it that yet, saying the word might spook the world further.

"I think it's pretty clear we're in a pandemic and I don't know why WHO is resisting that," said Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota.

As of Saturday, nearly 90,000 cases have been reported in Asia; more than 8,000 in Europe; 6,000 in



the Mideast; about 450 in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and fewer than 50 cases reported so far in Africa.

In Iran, fears over the virus and the government's waning credibility has become a major challenge to leaders already reeling from American sanctions. More than 1,000 infections were confirmed overnight, bringing the country's total to 5,823 cases, including 145 deaths.

China on Sunday reported 44 new cases over the past 24 hours, the lowest level since it began publishing nationwide figures on Jan 20, and 27 new fatalities. South Korea reported 272 new cases, taking the total to 7,313, with 50 deaths overall.

The virus has not even spared islands in the middle of the Indian Ocean, with the tiny archipelago nation of the Maldives reporting its two first cases.

Kageyama reported from Tokyo. Associated Press writers Chris Blake in Bangkok, Maria Sanminiatelli in New York, Angela Charlton in Paris, Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, Ashok Sharma in New Delhi, Anna Johnson in London, Trisha Thomas and Nicole Winfield in Rome and Jonathan Poet in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

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

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## **Cruise ship hit by virus to dock in Oakland, California**

**By DAISY NGUYEN and JANIE HAR Associated Press**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A cruise ship hit by the new coronavirus is headed to the port of Oakland, California, the captain told passengers, though they were destined to stay aboard the ship for at least another day.

Grand Princess Capt. John Smith, in a recording provided by passenger Laurie Miller of San Jose, told guests the ship will dock in Oakland. Princess Cruises says it's expected to arrive on Monday. The ship is carrying more than 3,500 people from 54 countries.

"An agreement has been reached to bring our ship into the port of Oakland," he told passengers Saturday night. "After docking, we will then begin a disembarkation process specified by federal authorities that will take several days."

Smith said passengers who need medical treatment or hospitalization will go to health care facilities in California, while state residents who don't require acute medical care "will go to a federally operated isolation facility within California for testing and isolation."

U.S. guests from other states will be transported by the federal government to facilities in other states. Crew members will be quarantined and treated aboard the ship.

Smith said the information he was given did not include any details about what would happen to passengers from other countries.

"We are working to obtain more details overnight. ... I'm sorry I can't provide you more details right now," he said.

The Grand Princess had been forbidden to dock in San Francisco amid evidence that the vessel was the breeding ground for a cluster of nearly 20 cases that resulted in at least one death after a previous voyage.

Meanwhile, the U.S. death toll from the virus climbed to 19, with all but three victims in Washington state. The number of infections swelled to more than 400, scattered across the U.S., as passengers aboard the ship holed up in their rooms.

Steven Smith and his wife, Michele, of Paradise, California, went on the cruise to celebrate their wedding anniversary. The Smiths said they were a bit worried but felt safe in their room, which they had left just

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once since Thursday to video chat with their children.

Crew members wearing masks and gloves delivered trays with their food in covered plates, delivered outside their door. They've occupied themselves by watching TV, reading and looking out the window.

"Thank God, we have a window!" Steven Smith said.

The ship was heading from Hawaii to San Francisco when it was held off the California coast Wednesday so people with symptoms could be tested for the virus. Cruise officials on Saturday disclosed more information about how they think the outbreak occurred.

Grant Tarling, chief medical officer for Carnival Corporation, said it's believed a 71-year-old Northern California man who later died of the virus was probably sick when he boarded the ship for a Feb. 11 cruise to Mexico.

The passenger visited the medical center the day before disembarking with symptoms of respiratory illness, he said. Others in several states and Canada who were on that voyage also have tested positive.

The passenger likely infected his dining room server, who also tested positive for the virus, Tarling said, as did two people traveling with the man. Two passengers now on the ship who have the virus were not on the previous cruise, he said.

Some passengers who had been on the Mexico trip stayed aboard for the current voyage — increasing crew members' exposure to the virus.

Another Princess ship, the Diamond Princess, was quarantined for two weeks in Yokohama, Japan, last month because of the virus. Ultimately, about 700 of the 3,700 people aboard became infected in what experts pronounced a public-health failure, with the vessel essentially becoming a floating germ factory.

Hundreds of Americans aboard that ship were flown to military bases in California and other states for two-week quarantines. Some later were hospitalized with symptoms.

An epidemiologist who studies the spread of virus particles said the recirculated air from a cruise ship's ventilation system, plus the close quarters and communal settings, make passengers and crew vulnerable to infectious diseases.

"They're not designed as quarantine facilities, to put it mildly," said Don Milton of the University of Maryland.

Worldwide, the virus has infected more than 100,000 people and killed more than 3,400, the vast majority of them in China. Most cases have been mild, and more than half of those infected have recovered.

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Associated Press writers Olga R. Rodriguez and Juliet Williams in San Francisco; Gene Johnson, Martha Bellisle and Carla K. Johnson in Seattle; Adriana Gomez Licon in Miami; Rachel La Corte in Olympia, Washington; and AP researcher Monika Mathur in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

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## Yeshiva basketball team reaches first Sweet 16

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — First came the prayer ceremony at the conclusion of the Sabbath with their families, then, the celebration on the basketball court and the overflowing joy of March Madness victory.

Yeshiva University beat Penn State Harrisburg 102-83 on Saturday to reach the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Division III Tournament for the first time in the history of the Jewish Orthodox institution.

The Maccabees, named after the ancient Jewish rebel warriors, fought against all odds. They won their 29th straight game in a record-breaking season that began amid concerns over a global rise in anti-Semitism and has now been engulfed by the new coronavirus.

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The game was played at an empty gym at Johns Hopkins University because of concerns over the virus. The legion of faithful Macs fans who chant out their names from the stands and often follow them on the road was replaced by the squeaking of sneakers and the unwavering support of their bench players, some wearing Jewish skullcaps, who chanted "De-fense! De-fense!"

During a timeout with less than three minutes to go and the score at 94-72, some danced "Stronger" by Kanye West that blared from the gym's speakers. At the final buzzer, the Macs hugged on the court at an empty 1,100-seat Goldfarb Gymnasium and celebrated, pumping their fists and singing in Hebrew: "When the month of Adar begins, joy increases!"

"It means everything," forward Gabriel Leifer said about the victory and reaching the Sweet 16. He got his fourth triple-double of the season, scoring 10 points and leading all players with 20 rebounds while dishing out 10 assists. Leifer had been voted most outstanding player of the Skyline Conference that the Macs recently won to qualify for the NCAAs.

"From the start of the year, after we lost in the conference final last year, we knew this year was going to be a big year for us," he said.

Their records this season include the best start in school history, the longest winning streak and their first national ranking.

"It's amazing, unbelievable," co-captain Daniel Katz said. "I don't know if we ever thought about this. We've come an unbelievable long way as a team, and it's surreal."

Some of the families of the Macs who had traveled from across the U.S. to support them followed the game from a hotel where they had relocated after Yeshiva's team had its first hotel reservation in suburban Baltimore canceled over coronavirus fears. A student at the university tested positive, leading to the cancellation of classes.

"It's special because a lot of families drove up Friday. That was after everyone found out that they weren't allowed to go to the games," Leifer said. "It shows their support from beginning to the end. Whether they can be there, whether they cannot, they're always there for us."

A day earlier, the Macs beat Worcester Polytechnic Institute in what was believed to be the first U.S. sports event held without fans because of the new coronavirus. After the game, the players rushed back to their hotel before sundown on time for the start of the Sabbath.

While they waited for their next game, some wore prayer shawls, shared a traditional dinner and played card and board games with their families. They couldn't check scouting reports or watch the result of other games to find out who would be their next opponent. But now they know: they have advanced, and this time, they will face nationally ranked No. 3 Randolph-Macon College of Ashland, Virginia in the Sweet 16.

"It's going to be awesome," Leifer said. "It's an amazing experience, another game, and like we say: 'We're just surviving events no matter how hard or how difficult it is.'"

## 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

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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.

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 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

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

## Venezuela on agenda for Trump's meeting with Brazil's leader

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and DIANE JEANTET Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump would not commit Saturday to continue holding off on hitting Brazil with tariffs on imports of its aluminum and steel, saying "I don't make any promises."

Trump commented in the presence of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who Trump was hosting for dinner at his resort home in southern Florida.

In a tweet in December, Trump accused Bolsonaro's government of hurting American farmers by manipulating its currency. He pledged to slap tariffs on Brazilian aluminum and steel, but withdrew the threat

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days later.

"We have a very good relationship as to tariffs ... we want to always help Brazil," said Trump, who appeared with Bolsonaro at the front door of his Mar-a-Lago estate. U.S. and Brazilian flags fluttered in the breeze on either side of the doorway.

"The friendship is probably stronger now than it's never been," Trump said.

Asked whether his comments meant no new tariffs on Brazil, Trump declined to commit.

"I don't make any promises," he said, before he led Bolsonaro to a dinner table on the club's bustling outdoor patio. U.S. National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien, and Trump's daughter Ivanka and her husband, Jared Kushner, both senior White House advisers, were also at the table along with several Brazilian government officials.

Trump also praised Bolsonaro's leadership.

"He's doing a fantastic job. Great job. Brazil loves him and the USA loves him," Trump said.

Brazil is coping with a double-digit unemployment rate and economic growth that is half of what Bolsonaro promised as a candidate. He is also struggling to get legislation through congress.

White House officials said the crisis in Venezuela, a possible U.S.-Brazil trade deal and Chinese telecom company Huawei were discussion topics for the leaders. A statement the White House released after the meeting did not mention Huawei.

Bolsonaro is on a three-day trip to the United States that includes a visit to the Miami headquarters of U.S. Southern Command, which oversees U.S. military operations in Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Bolsonaro also scheduled meetings with Florida Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, both Republicans. Trump is in Florida through Monday.

Trump's administration has been the most important ally for Venezuela's opposition since Juan Guaidó leaped to the center of Venezuela's tumultuous political landscape more than a year ago. He pledged to force President Nicolás Maduro from power and restore democracy.

Though Guaidó has the backing of more than 60 nations, his popularity has faded, coupled with a failed military uprising.

The United States is continuing its "maximum pressure" campaign against Maduro and will continue to work on unspecified "bottlenecks" to a trade agreement with Brazil, said a senior Trump administration official who briefed reporters before the leaders met.

The U.S. has been pressuring governments worldwide to ban the Chinese tech giant Huawei from having any stake in their 5G networks. But Trump's campaign was dealt a blow when U.S. ally Britain decided to grant Huawei a limited role in supplying new high-speed network equipment to wireless carriers. The U.S. sees Huawei as an intelligence threat.

Bolsonaro, called the "the Trump of the tropics," has turned his relationship with the U.S. president into a cornerstone of his foreign diplomacy. The far-right Brazilian leader has used Trump to shore up his base, often praising him and posting videos of himself on social media simply watching Trump speeches on television.

Trump likes Bolsonaro and says they have a good relationship. He hosted Bolsonaro at the White House last March.

The U.S. trip comes as a welcome respite for Bolsonaro, who at home is dealing with a weak economy and a strained relationship with congress. Several opposition parties published a manifesto this week, encouraging Brazilians to demonstrate against the government.

Bolsonaro's allies see the invitation to dinner at Mar-a-Lago, Trump's private, dues-paying club in Palm Beach, as another sign that Bolsonaro's alignment with America is paying off.

Trump last year granted Brazil the status of privileged ally outside NATO and backed its bid for membership in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

But U.S. support can be fickle and government critics question whether Brazil's seemingly unconditional embrace of Trump's brand of politics will yield any real benefits. Trump's refusal to commit to holding off on tariffs most likely would be viewed as an example.

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Brazil also is struggling to combat growing illegal deforestation in the vast Amazon rainforest and was criticized for its poor handling of devastating fires in the region last summer.

Jeantet reported from Rio de Janeiro.

## Argentina announces first coronavirus death in Latin America

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A 64-year-old man died in Argentina as a result of the new coronavirus, the first such death in Latin America, health authorities announced Saturday.

The Ministry of Health said the patient lived in Buenos Aires and had been confirmed with COVID-19 after coming down with a cough, fever and sore throat following a recent trip to Europe.

The patient, who suffered kidney failure, had a history of diabetes, hypertension and bronchitis before being infected with the virus, a statement said. He had been in intensive care since being admitted to a public hospital Wednesday.

Officials said the man was not one of the eight confirmed COVID-19 cases previously reported for Argentina, but his case was confirmed by tests Saturday. Research is underway to determine who the patient had been in contact with, authorities said.

Elsewhere in the region, officials in Peru announced five new cases of COVID-19 infection Saturday, raising the country's total to six. Paraguay reported its first case, and Chile said it now had seven confirmed cases, up from five.

Costa Rica's Health Ministry confirmed four new cases of coronavirus, in addition to that of a case involving an American woman announced Friday. Her husband was among the new cases.

Mexico, Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia also have reported confirmed cases of the new coronavirus.

According to the latest official data, there are more than 101,000 infected worldwide and more than 3,400 deaths.

## Official: White House didn't want to tell seniors not to fly

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The White House overruled health officials who wanted to recommend that elderly and physically fragile Americans be advised not to fly on commercial airlines because of the new coronavirus, a federal official told The Associated Press.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention submitted the plan this week as a way of trying to control the virus, but White House officials ordered the air travel recommendation be removed, said the official who had direct knowledge of the plan. Trump administration officials have since suggested certain people should consider not traveling, but they have stopped short of the stronger guidance sought by the CDC.

The person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity did not have authorization to talk about the matter. The person did not have direct knowledge about why the decision to kill the language was made.

In a tweet, the press secretary for Vice President Mike Pence, Katie Miller, said that "it was never a recommendation to the Task Force" and called the AP story "complete fiction."

On Friday, the CDC quietly updated its website to tell older adults and people with severe medical conditions such as heart, lung or kidney disease to "stay home as much as possible" and avoid crowds. It urges those people to "take actions to reduce your risk of exposure," but it doesn't specifically address flying.

Pence, speaking Saturday after meeting with cruise ship industry leaders in Florida, targeted his travel advice to a narrower group: older people with serious health problems.

"If you're a senior citizen with a serious underlying health condition, this would be a good time to practice common sense and to avoid activities including traveling on a cruise line," Pence said, adding they were looking to cruise line officials for action, guidance and flexibility with those passengers.

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar suggested older Americans and those with health problems should avoid crowds "especially in poorly ventilated spaces."

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For most people, the flu-like viral illness causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But — like the flu — it can cause pneumonia and be much more lethal to people made frail by old age and by conditions that make it harder for their bodies to fight infections.

Dr. Peter Hotez, dean of tropical medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, this week warned U.S. lawmakers against minimizing the viruses risk for vulnerable people. During a Congressional hearing, he said the coronavirus "is like the angel of death for older individuals."

Some experts this week said clearer and louder guidance should be made to vulnerable people, so they take every possible step to avoid settings where they might more easily become infected.

"The clear message to people who fit into those categories is; 'You ought to become a semi-hermit. You've got to really get serious in your personal life about social distancing, and in particular avoiding crowds of any kind,'" said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University expert on infectious diseases.

That can include not only avoiding essential commercial travel but also large church services and crowded restaurants, he added.

Dr. Tom Frieden, a former CDC director, said whether to recommend the frail and elderly avoid air travel is "a difficult question," but clearly this is a time when such conversations should be taking place.

"At this point the risk in the U.S. remains low, but we are seeing it spread rapidly. We are going from the calm before the storm to the beginning of the storm," said Frieden, who now heads Resolve to Save Lives, an organization promoting global public health.

The new virus is a member of the coronavirus family that can cause colds or more serious illnesses such as SARS and MERS. Health officials think it spreads mainly from droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how the flu spreads.

The virus first emerged late last year in mainland China, but this year has increasingly been spreading around the world. More than 100,000 illnesses have been reported globally, in more than 90 countries and territories. the count includes more than 3,500 deaths.

For weeks, cases in the U.S. remained very low, but the count has been accelerating in the last several days.

President Donald Trump visited the CDC in Atlanta on Friday, where he defended his administration's handling of the outbreak and tried to reassure Americans that the government had the virus under control. But Trump also detoured from that message, calling Washington state's governor a "snake" and saying he'd prefer that people exposed to the virus on a cruise ship be left aboard so they wouldn't be added to the nation's tally.

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Associated Press writers Lynn Berry in Washington and Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, contributed to this report.

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

## **'It's scary': Virus slams women's hockey worlds in Canada**

**By JOHN WAWROW AP Hockey Writer**

The women's world hockey championships in Canada were canceled Saturday because of public health concerns over the spread of the new coronavirus.

The two-week tournament was set to open March 31, with venues in Halifax and Truro, Nova Scotia. René Fasel, president of the International Ice Hockey Federation, said in a statement there has been "not enough of an improvement to the coronavirus situation to allow us to safely host a 10-team international tournament within this time frame."

Sarah Nurse, a player on Canada's national team, wasn't really surprised by the announcement. She spoke after participating in a Professional Women's Hockey Players' Association event in Tempe, Arizona. "Nothing was confirmed until this morning," she said. "This is something that is very sad for all of us."



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"Not taking anything away from the severity of the situation, but it's kind of a kick-us-while-we're-down situation. Last year at the world championships, we found that our league was folding. Then the Four Nations Cup (in Sweden) was canceled."

That event was scrapped last fall because players on Sweden's national teams refused to compete while demanding better pay and working conditions from their national body.

"It can't really go down any more for us. There's no way but up for us," Nurse said.

Brianna Decker of the U.S. national team also was disappointed.

"You've got to be cautious," she said in Tempe. "It stinks for us, we all worked so hard all season, but you've got to be smart. It's a safety thing and obviously I'm in support with the IIHF."

Fasel told The Associated Press by phone the decision was made by conference call. He noted the concerns over the health of players and fans attending the tournament as well as the difficulties in making travel plans for some nations, in particular, Japan, where almost all sports events and large gatherings have been canceled.

"It's scary," he said.

Hockey Canada said holding the event in empty arenas with no fans was not an option the IIHF considered. Hockey Canada CEO Tom Renney said abandoning the tournament was determined to be "the best course of action," and made under the recommendation of Nova Scotia's chief medical officer and the IIHF.

"It goes without saying there is a great deal of disappointment with this decision," Renney said on a media conference call. "We fully support the decision rendered by the IIHF. We have spoken to the players who are now aware of the circumstances, and I'm sure you can appreciate their disappointment."

Scott Smith, Hockey Canada's president and chief operating officer, said the deliberation began after a request from the Japanese national team to arrive early, and subsequent recommendations from Nova Scotia health officials not to hold the tournament were passed on to the IIHF. Renney said the IIHF has assured Hockey Canada that next year's world championships will be in Nova Scotia.

Canada's potential players were informed Saturday.

"I do think they were still very shocked and obviously extremely disappointed," said Gina Kingsbury, Hockey Canada's director of women's national teams. "It's been a very difficult and unique year for women's hockey and certainly for our athletes. With that in mind, everyone understands the importance of health and safety and puts that as a priority."

The women's worlds were canceled once before — in Beijing in 2003 because of the SARS outbreak in China.

The escalating virus outbreak has played havoc with numerous sports events across Europe and Asia, with games being canceled or played without spectators.

Fasel said the status of other international hockey tournaments will be determined in the coming month, starting with the under-18 men's championships in Michigan from April 16-26. Fasel said a decision on that tournament likely will be made within 10 days.

The IIHF will wait until mid-April to determine whether to proceed with the men's world championships set to open May 8 in Switzerland.

"For sure, we are concerned and we are monitoring this," Fasel said.

The Canadian women were seeking a chance to bounce back on home ice after finishing third last year in Finland. The U.S. beat Finland in the championship game to win its fifth consecutive title and ninth overall.

"We fully respect this difficult decision and know it was made with the best interests of everyone involved," USA Hockey spokesman Dave Fischer said. "We're disappointed for our players and staff who have worked so hard in preparing for this event, and for the fans that were looking forward to watching the best athletes in the world compete for a gold medal."

Halifax Mayor Mike Savage posted a note on his Twitter account, saying: "This is tough for players, fans organizers and our local Halifax community. But a sound decision based on public health recommendations. We look forward to hosting when the time is right."

The cancellation comes at a time when women's hockey in North America has already been disrupted.

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In May, U.S. and Canadian national team members were among more than 200 of the world's top players to vow not to compete professionally in North America this season following the demise of the Canadian Women's Hockey League.

They then formed the Professional Women's Hockey Players' Association to demand the formation of a single league with a sustainable economic model.

The association has been holding barnstorming tours across North America, with the last stop this weekend in Phoenix.

"This has been a very unique and difficult season," said Gina Kingsbury Hockey Canada's director of women's national teams. "Turning our attention towards the 2021 world championships, nothing changes in our preparations; we will continue to build our team and focus on competing for a gold medal on home ice next year."

The difficulties of the past year were not lost on Decker.

"We did what we could with the tour and we had these showcases," she said. "We created a lot more visibility for women's hockey. Hopefully we have something a little bit more intact for next year."

The virus has led to the NHL and NBA considering taking precautionary measures.

On Friday, the NHL issued a memo to its teams urging players to limit contact with fans. The move followed a similar directive this month by the NBA, which has told its players to stop high-fiving fans and strangers, and avoid taking items for autographs.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said Wednesday at the general managers meetings in Florida that he's ordered a halt to all business-related travel outside North America for league employees.

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AP Hockey Writer Stephen Whyno and freelance writer Jack Thompson contributed to this report.

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For more AP NHL coverage: <https://apnews.com/NHL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## **Sanders, Biden up attacks as head-to-head race takes shape**

**By WILL WEISSERT and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press**

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — The Democratic presidential primary is down to two major candidates, and it shows.

Former Vice President Joe Biden and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders are spending their first weekend as their party's last top White House contenders increasingly taking aim at one another. Each wants to show he's the best choice before six more states — Idaho, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota and Washington — vote on Tuesday.

It reflects the new contours of a race that once featured 20-plus Democrats. An increasingly bitter matchup could endure for months as Biden and Sanders compete for the right to face President Donald Trump in November.

"We have a two-person race," Sanders said Saturday in Dearborn, a Detroit suburb with one of the nation's largest Arab American populations. "And all over this country, people are asking themselves which candidate can best defeat Trump. I have zero doubt in my mind that, together, we are the campaign that can beat Trump."

Campaigning in St. Louis, Biden took a number of veiled swipes at Sanders, even as he called on Democrats to rise above Trump's division.

He told the crowd that if they wanted to nominate a "lifelong" and "proud" Democrat, they should pick him. Sanders has run for office as an Independent and identifies himself as a democratic socialist.

"If you want a nominee who'll bring the party together, who will run on a positive progressive vision for the future, not turn this primary into a campaign of negative attacks — because that will only reelect Donald Trump if we go that route — if you want that, join us," Biden said.

Winning, he added, "means uniting America, not sowing more division and anger."

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The former vice president also knocked Sanders' weeks of suggestions that he is the candidate who can prompt record voter turnout in November and defeat Trump, saying that actually "we're the campaign that's going to do that."

Sanders argues that no Democrat will win the presidency "with the same-old, same-old politics of yesterday."

And in a sign of how biting the contest may become, Sanders supporters — including his campaign manager — raised questions about Biden's stamina after he gave a seven minute speech in St. Louis. At his second stop, in Kansas City, he again gave a truncated version of his stump speech, speaking for a little over 15 minutes.

Sanders campaign manager Faiz Shakir issued a tweet noting Biden's short speaking time and highlighting the fact that Sanders had three campaign events on his schedule, "each speaking engagement extending for close to an hour."

That prompted swift online push-back from Biden allies. Democratic strategist Guy Cecil, who leads the party's largest outside spending group, tweeted, "Spreading conspiracy theories online won't help your candidate" but "it will help Donald Trump win in November."

But the focus on Biden's age is somewhat ironic given that the 78-year-old Sanders is actually a year older than Biden. Sanders, who has served in Congress since 1991, says he's bucked the establishment of both parties with decades with unpopular stands that now give him the credibility to lead a political revolution "from the bottom up."

Sanders is pledging to increase Democratic turnout by drawing younger voters, minorities and working class people to the polls even though they tend to vote in lower concentrations than many other Americans. Strong support among Hispanics lifted Sanders to victories in Nevada and California, but Biden trounced him in South Carolina and throughout much of the Deep South that voted during last week's Super Tuesday. Biden especially ran up the score with African Americans.

Some activists are disappointed that a once diverse field of women and minorities has dwindled to two white men in their late 70s. But in Dearborn, Sanders, who is Jewish, said he was inspired by so many Arab Americans backing him. "I see people coming together from so many different backgrounds. It is beautiful," he said. He also joked about his age, saying, "Sometimes people say, 'Bernie, you're 33 years of age. How do you keep going?'"

Top advisers expect Sanders to finish strong in Washington. Still, he canceled a trip to Mississippi to focus on Michigan, Tuesday's largest prize. He made a stop in Chicago's Grant Park on Saturday afternoon, and declared that he has a different vision than Biden, "And the American people are going to hear about it." Sanders will spend the rest of the weekend in Michigan, while Biden is in Missouri and Mississippi.

Sanders said repeatedly that he and Biden are friends and that, if he's not the nominee, he will support Biden against Trump. But, he added, "In the remaining months, I intend to make it clear what my views are and what Joe Biden's are."

The campaign is being conducted as the country is contending with the coronavirus outbreak. The AFL-CIO said Saturday that it was canceling a scheduled presidential forum set for Thursday in Orlando in the week before the Florida primary.

Sanders has used many of his Michigan events to hammer Biden's past support for the North American Free Trade Agreement, arguing that it moved high-paying U.S. jobs to Mexico and China while devastating manufacturing in a state dominated by the auto industry. He's focused on Biden's years in the Senate, when Biden backed not only trade agreements and the U.S.-led war in Iraq, but also a ban on using federal funds to pay for abortions. Biden announced this summer that he was reversing his position on that, but Sanders said that wasn't enough.

"I think we need a candidate that can be trusted on this issue. I am proud to tell you that I am 100% pro choice," Sanders says.

The pair are also circling each other on the airwaves.

Biden saw a surge of donor support after South Carolina and Super Tuesday, and his campaign announced that it was spending \$12 million on a six-state ad buy in places voting Tuesday and the following

week. It was his largest single advertising effort of the 2020 campaign.

He is using two television and digital ads, one promoting his relationship with President Barack Obama, the other a new effort to counter a Sanders attack on Biden's past record on Social Security. It's a criticism Sanders has used for months. And though he hasn't mentioned it as frequently while campaigning in Michigan, he has released his own ad airing in states voting Tuesday and the following week dinging Biden on Social Security.

It features a past clip of the former vice president saying, "When I argued if we should freeze federal spending, I meant Social Security." Biden's counter spot has a narrator saying, "Biden will increase Social Security benefits and protect it for generations to come."

Jaffe reported from Kansas City, Mo. Associated Press writer Sara Burnett in Chicago contributed to this report.

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

## Experts: Cruise ships no place for a coronavirus quarantine

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

Cruise ships hit by coronavirus outbreaks have quickly found themselves with no ports for thousands of passengers as countries on four continents have quarantined vessels or kept them at sea for days.

Keeping all the passengers on board instead of letting them disembark on land is a strategy that can backfire, however, according to experts, because the ventilation systems and close quarters of cruise ships make them ideal places for illness to jump from one person to the next.

"They're not designed as quarantine facilities, to put it mildly," said Don Milton, an epidemiologist with the University of Maryland.

A ship with more than 3,500 people aboard was sailing in circles off the coast of California on Saturday after 19 crew members and two passengers tested positive for the new virus. Originally bound for San Francisco, the Grand Princess might be sent instead to a non-commercial port, officials said.

While restaurants and other shipboard locations were closed, passengers were able to watch TV and use the internet, or if they were lucky enough to have one, go outside on their balcony overlooking the water.

Passenger Karen Schwartz Dever said she and her husband were enjoying their balcony and keeping themselves busy with playing cards, while meals and water were being delivered by room service. But she worried about some of the other passengers.

"I met someone who is in the middle of chemo for cancer," she said. "There are people on oxygen. There are also children on board. I can't imagine what it's like if they are in an inside cabin."

While President Donald Trump has said he doesn't want the Grand Princess to dock, he also said he would yield to the advice of health officials. Refusing to let the ship into port for an extended period could hasten the spread of the virus on board, experts said.

Milton, who studies the spread of virus particles in the air, said recirculating air on a cruise ship's ventilation system, along with people living in close quarters and in communal settings, make the vessels vulnerable to the spread of infection.

"You're going to amplify the infection by keeping people on the boat," he said.

A Purdue University air quality expert said cruise ship air conditioning systems are not designed to filter out particles as small as the coronavirus.

"The passengers should be quarantined on shore if there is a suitable facility," Qingyan Chen said in an email message. Grand Princess "should run 100% outdoor air in their air conditioning system and not use recirculated air."

Top cruise line executives met Saturday with Vice President Mike Pence at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, after which Pence announced "significant changes" to the industry going forward, but gave no indication what would happen next with the Grand Princess.

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Pence said cruise officials agreed to enhanced entry and exit screenings and to establish shipboard testing for the virus, along with new quarantine standards established by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The industry also was asked to come up with and fund a new plan on how to transport cruise passengers who contract the disease.

Princess officials said the new protocols include asking all new passengers to sign a health declaration, and temperature screenings as passengers leave. Anyone coming from a "high-risk area is also undergoing a medical evaluation," Dr. Grant Tarling, chief medical officer for Carnival Corporation, told reporters.

Government officials made it clear in their language that they were walking a fine line with industry officials about the best way to prevent the disease from spreading without causing significant economic hardship to cruise lines.

"We want to ensure the American people can continue, as we deal with the coronavirus, to enjoy the cruise line industry," Pence said.

Meanwhile, Princess officials also appeared frustrated about the lack of detail on the Grand Princess' next steps, repeatedly telling reporters they were waiting for definitive information about when and where the ship will dock, who will be tested, and whether passengers will be allowed to get off.

"We need to get the ship into a port as soon as possible," said Jan Swartz, group president of Princess Cruises and Carnival Australia.

In Japan, leaders were criticized for confining more than 3,700 passengers and crew on the Diamond Princess for two weeks last month because of the virus. About 700 people were sickened on the ship and three died. Japanese health officials defended the quarantine as necessary and adequate.

In Asia, the Malaysian port of Penang turned away the cruise ship Costa Fortuna with 2,000 people aboard because there were 64 passengers from Italy, the center of Europe's epidemic. It was the second port after Phuket in Thailand to reject the ship, which is now headed to Singapore.

In Egypt, a cruise ship on the Nile with more than 150 aboard was quarantined after 12 people tested positive for the virus. And on the Mediterranean in Malta, which reported its first case of the virus, the MSC Opera agreed not to enter port even though there were no infections confirmed on board.

Art Reingold, head of the epidemiology and biostatistics division at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health, said the burden is on authorities to coordinate the feeding and care of so many people without spreading the infection further.

"It's obviously going to be a real challenge," he said. "I don't have any doubt that crew members interact with passengers, so it seems quite plausible there could be additional transmissions."

The challenge is not an entirely new one: Ships have previously been affected by other diseases, such as norovirus, which causes vomiting and diarrhea and can spread quickly in the close quarters of a ship and among passengers with weakened immune systems.

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Associated Press reporters Daisy Nguyen and Janie Har in San Francisco and Kelli Kennedy in Miami contributed to this report.

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This story has been edited to clarify that Reingold was referring to all authorities, not just cruise ship crews.

## Iditarod looks for relevance as race across Alaska starts

By MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — When 57 mushers line up Sunday for the official start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, it will be the second-smallest field in the past two decades. Only last year's field of 52 was smaller.

Interest in the world's most famous sled dog race has waned in recent years, in part because of smaller cash prizes that make it difficult for mushers to compete in an expensive sport. Animal rights activists also have stepped up pressure on sponsors to drop their support.

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Now, Iditarod officials are looking to breathe new life into the competition, joining a global sled-dog racing series that features TV coverage and a GPS tracking platform that they hope will appeal to fans. They are also adding a betting element for the first time this year, and plan to create some type of fantasy application for future races.

"Like many sports," Iditarod CEO Rob Urbach said, "we are in a race for relevance."

The Iditarod held its fan-friendly ceremonial start Saturday in downtown Anchorage. Musher took selfies with spectators, who also photographed and pet some of the more than 800 dogs in town for the event.

The real race starts Sunday in Willow, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Anchorage.

Nearly 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) of unforgiving terrain, doused in deep snow this year, await them as they cross two mountain ranges, travel on the frozen Yukon River and navigate the treacherous and wind-whipped Bering Sea coast to the old Gold Rush town of Nome. The winner is expected there about 10 or 11 days after the start.

"This year we've had a lot of snow. I won't ever say too much snow. But it's been a challenge to get trail put in," race director Mark Nordman said. "It's been a traditional colder winter like we used to have 10 years ago."

Five former champions are in the race, including four-time winners Martin Buser and Lance Mackey and three-time champion Mitch Seavey. Jeff King, another four-time winner, was set to run this year's race until he underwent emergency surgery Monday for a hernia and perforated intestine. One of his dog handlers will run the team instead.

Pete Kaiser, who last year became the first Yupik contender to win the Iditarod, is back to defend his title. Kaiser, 32, said a majority of the team that pulled him to victory will be back this year, including his lead dogs, Lucy and Morrow.

The 2018 winner and last year's runner-up by only 12 minutes, Joar Leifseth Ulsom of Norway, is also in the field. Besides Ulsom, two others from Norway are racing, along with five mushers from Canada and one each from Denmark and Italy. Last year's top two female finishers, Jessie Royer in third and Aliy Zirkle in fourth, are also competing.

Kaiser believes the recent decrease in mushers could just be cyclical as mushers can afford to race for only one year and then have to work to build up cash for another race. Smaller purses don't help.

The payout to mushers who place has fallen in the past few years. Seavey pocketed \$71,250 for winning 2017 race; Kaiser collected \$51,299 last year.

For Kaiser, race winnings, combined with a summer job and his kennel, allow him to compete in the sport he loves.

"If any one of those things isn't in order, then all of a sudden you feel like you're struggling," he said.

Sponsorships are important not only to the mushers but to the Iditarod's overall financial health. Officials deem them so important that during the race's annual meeting for media, they invited representatives from the Iditarod's biggest sponsors — not the mushers — to address reporters. This year, sponsors touted the good dog care mushers provide and tried to blunt criticism by the race's most vocal critic, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

PETA calls the Iditarod cruel to the canine participants, and for years has pressed its main sponsors to bow out.

This week, the organization announced Alaska Airlines is dropping its sponsorship after this year's race, following PETA protests outside its Seattle headquarters and meetings with PETA representatives.

The airline, which got its start in Alaska decades ago, confirmed the decision but said it represents a shift in its corporate giving strategy and had nothing to do with PETA.

"It's a big blow," said Bob Dorfman, a sports branding expert with Baker Street Advertising in San Francisco. "Whether Alaska Airlines will admit it or not, I'm sure it's the pressure from PETA that is causing them to drop the sponsorship."

PETA claims more than 150 dogs have died horrible deaths running the Iditarod since it began in 1973. The Iditarod disputes that number but has declined to provide its own count despite numerous requests by The Associated Press.

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PETA also says it will run ads on Anchorage television this week, featuring happy dogs saying they want to go out and play but they then want to come back in when they're done. That's contrasted with footage it says it obtained from people who infiltrated mushers' kennels posing as workers, showing dogs chained to dog houses in outdoor lots with no room to run.

PETA conducted a protest near Saturday's start line, and race supporters planned a counterprotest.

The Iditarod hopes for increased exposure this year by being a crowning race in the inaugural Arctic World Series, which also includes competitions in Minnesota, Finland and Russia. The series, backed by a Norwegian pet food supplement company, is designed to grow the sport's popularity. It includes a platform that allows GPS tracking of mushers.

Another aspect that could help attract fans is the addition of gambling this year. For \$10 a bet, people can predict which musher will win, their time into Nome and how many of dogs they have when the cross the finish line. Mushers traditionally start the race with 14 dogs but can drop animals that aren't running well. A musher must cross the finish line with at least five dogs in the harness.

Prize amounts will be determined by the number of entries, with a portion going to the Iditarod.

Other sports have increased their presence if not popularity by adding gambling, but the Iditarod has challenges others don't, Dorfman said.

"It's such an esoteric event," he said. And now that there's negative publicity around the race, "it's really going to be a challenge to somehow get interest in the Lower 48, especially as long as animal cruelty is swirling around it.

"That's not going to help at all," he said.

## Saudis' arrest of 2 princes called a warning to royal family

By AYA BATRAWY Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Two senior princes in Saudi Arabia are under arrest for not supporting Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has consolidated control of all major levers of power with the support of his father, King Salman, two people close to the royal family said Saturday.

The arrests on Friday of the king's younger and beloved brother, Prince Ahmed bin Abdelaziz, and the king's nephew and former counterterrorism czar, Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, came after an accumulation of behavior that was provocative to leadership, one person in Saudi Arabia with knowledge of the arrests said.

Both princes had served previously in the post of interior minister, overseeing security and surveillance inside the kingdom.

The move came as a surprise, given that Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, 60, was widely known to be under close surveillance since he was shunted out of the line of succession by the king's son in mid-2017, a person close to the royal court said.

The arrest of Prince Ahmed, 78, was also unexpected since he is the king's full younger brother and also a senior member of the ruling Al Saud family.

Prince Ahmed, however, has long held unfavorable views of the 34-year-old crown prince and was one of just a few senior princes to abstain from pledging allegiance to him when the young royal sidelined more senior princes to become first in line to the throne.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the arrests, quoting unidentified sources allied with the royal court as saying the princes were plotting a palace coup that would halt the rise of the crown prince. The Journal has since reported that the sweep broadened to include dozens of Interior Ministry officials, senior army officers and others suspected of supporting a coup attempt.

The two people who talked to The Associated Press declined to characterize actions by the two princes as a coup attempt. They agreed to discuss the highly sensitive matter related to security only if granted anonymity.

One added that the arrests were a message to all those in the royal family feeling disenfranchised to stop grumbling and toe the line, saying that if Prince Ahmed can be arrested, any prince can and will be.

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Prince Ahmed was seen as a person that royals vexed with the crown prince's grip on power could look to, the person said.

There has been no official comment from Saudi authorities on the arrests.

The crown prince has succeeded in a few short years at sweeping aside any competition from royals older and more experienced than him. He has also overhauled the most powerful security bodies to report to him.

Prince Mohammed bin Nayef is well-known and liked by U.S. intelligence officials for his counterterrorism cooperation in past years against al-Qaida. As head of the interior ministry, he was a feared and towering figure who oversaw the long arm of the government that both prosecuted and closely monitored and jailed dissidents and critics of the kingdom.

After being removed from the role of crown prince and replaced by the king's son, he was stripped of his power and closely monitored.

Prince Ahmed has been seen as critical of the crown prince, including telling protesters who were accosting him in London to ask the king and his son about the humanitarian disaster sparked by the war in Yemen. Religiously conservative, the prince also recently grumbled over the decision to close Islam's holiest site in Mecca to stymie the spread of the new coronavirus, according to one of the people familiar with the arrests.

The arrest of the two senior princes is most likely a preemptive move to manage risks to a transition from King Salman to his son, according to an analysis by Eurasia Group. Both princes were seen as possible alternatives to Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The reports of a crackdown on senior royals who could pose a threat to the 34-year-old crown prince's ascension to the throne sparked speculation once again about the 84-year-old monarch's health and ability to rule.

A U.S. official said King Salman appeared healthy and lucid in his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Feb. 20 in Riyadh. The two discussed the Saudi-led war in Yemen, efforts to counter Iran, the war in Syria and human rights issues.

As recently as Thursday, the king met with British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab in Riyadh.

The crown prince has succeeded in consolidating power and cementing his place as the day-to-day ruler, in part through far-reaching crackdowns on perceived critics or competitors.

The October 2018 killing of Saudi columnist Jamal Khashoggi by agents close to the crown prince inside the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul, however, damaged the prince's reputation globally.

Foreign investors were also rattled by an anti-corruption operation overseen by the prince in late 2017 that saw top royals, officials and senior businessmen rounded up and detained for up to several months in the luxurious Ritz-Carlton hotel in Riyadh and forced to sign over billions of dollars in assets in exchange for their freedom in secretive agreements.

The crown prince is popular among many in Saudi Arabia for pushing through bold reforms that have transformed life in the kingdom for many, including loosening severe restrictions on women and allowing concerts to be performed and movie theaters to open.

Still, his economic transformation plans have struggled to take off. The kingdom continues to rely heavily on oil for revenue, despite efforts to diversify. Oil prices have plunged amid the disruptions caused by the new coronavirus, signalling trouble for producers like Saudi Arabia. Foreign investors have been rattled by the prince's unpredictability.

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Associated Press diplomatic writer Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.



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## Trump's challenge: keeping his act fresh in reelection year

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Donald Trump show has a consistent script. Same villains. Same nicknames. Same grievances. Same hero: himself.

At raucous rallies held mostly in states that are friendly to him, the president tells audiences that he could be presidential, even Lincolnesque, if he wanted to. But that, he says, would be boring.

"It's easy to be presidential but only have about three people in front of me," Trump said at a recent rally, before breaking into a monotone imitation of a droning politician. "Doing this takes far more talent than doing that. Doing that is very easy. This is not easy."

As he seeks reelection with little variance from the themes that brought him to power four years ago, a central challenge will be to keep those audiences satisfied and to make sure, like a great entertainer, that the act isn't getting stale.

The president retains robust approval ratings among Republicans but even that fealty will be tested as he asks voters for another four years essentially offering them not new promises but more of the same.

Trump's campaign remains highly confident it will not only retain those who backed the president in 2016, but will also expand the electorate by turning out people who did not vote four years ago, in addition to peeling off some African American and Latino males.

At a rally last week in South Carolina, nearly 29% of those who registered for tickets didn't vote in the 2016 election, according to Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale.

But there are other metrics that don't look quite as hopeful.

Trump's Twitter following has grown to more than 73 million, up from 25 million at the start of his presidency. But the public's engagement with the president on his favorite social media platform has diminished since his inauguration more than three years ago.

Trump's tweets drew an average of 5.37 likes per 1,000 followers at the start of his presidency and were down to 1.29 in February, according to an analysis by Factba.se, a data analytics company that analyzes spoken and written remarks by elected officials. By comparison, top Democratic presidential contenders Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders — both of whom have a fraction of Trump's Twitter following — tallied 2.13 and 2.73 likes per 1,000 followers respectively last month.

The falling engagement numbers come as Trump, who likes to use social media as a tool to reach Americans without the contextualizing of the mainstream media, is relying on Twitter more than ever.

Trump broke his personal record for most tweets or retweets in a day in January as the Senate began hearing opening arguments in his impeachment trial, sending out more than 140 posts before most Americans had left work for the day. Trump, who was in Switzerland for an economic forum at the time, mostly posted tweets and retweets attacking Democratic House impeachment managers while amplifying messaging from allies who came to his defense.

Brian Ott, a Texas Tech University professor of communications and co-author of "The Twitter Presidency: Donald J. Trump and the Politics of White Rage," says that Trump's Twitter following has naturally expanded beyond his fervent supporters and political watchers because of his standing as the world's most powerful leader.

But his hardcore fans don't get the same thrill from retweeting and commenting on Trump's every post, and Russian trolls who were active on social media ahead of the 2016 election have less incentive, at the moment, to interfere and have melted away, Ott said.

Trump's campaign speeches have also become longer, according to Factba.se.

In 2017, his campaign speeches averaged 59 minutes. Thus far in 2020, he's clocking in at an average of 80.7 minutes.

"An overwhelming percentage of his discourse is about attacking others, and he simply has more enemies now," said Ott, explaining why Trump's speeches may be getting longer. "He uses the campaign rallies to air grievances and he's just got more grievances at this point and never lets go of anything."

For even his staunchest supporters — many wait hours in line to attend a rally — the president's lengthy

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remarks can be tough to stick with until the end.

At Trump's rally in the swing state of North Carolina earlier this week, his speech checked in at 67 minutes, relatively tight for Trump.

But with about 20 minutes to go, dozens of rallygoers who had showed up hours early to get prime spots to stand on the floor of Charlotte's Bojangles Coliseum headed for the exits.

Several pockets in the seated area that had been filled with men and women chanting "Four More Years!" and waving campaign signs as Trump took the stage began thinning out a full 15 minutes before the president concluded his speech. Most of those who remained until the end seemed to hang on Trump's every word but were far less animated as they sat with their "Promises Kept" and "Women for Trump" signs laying neatly in their laps.

Similar scenes played out at recent rallies in Colorado Springs and Las Vegas.

In Las Vegas, retirees Jim Haney and wife Theda Haney ran out of steam about nine hours after arriving at the arena and left before Trump finished his speech. They decided to leave early despite snagging a prime spot near the podium.

"I have no voice left," Theda Haney said.

"I'm ready for a cup of coffee and a nap," her husband added.

Trump frequently boasts that his rallies draw more supporters than he can fit in the arena. At his rally in Colorado Springs last month, Trump crowed there were "a lot of people, thousands of people that couldn't get in."

Indeed, several dozen people camped overnight in sub-freezing temperatures to attend Trump's recent rally in the military town. Some 2,000 people were turned back after the arena filled to capacity, but most stuck around for a while to watch Trump on a large screen in the parking lot. There were only a couple dozen left by the time he finished, with many shuffling their feet and huddling to ward off the cold.

For some devoted Trump fans, just getting a small taste of seeing Trump campaign in the flesh is enough. Rodney Siscoe, of Fountain, Colorado, left the Colorado Springs rally after about 10 minutes, walking out with a broad smile and satisfied that he got at least a glimpse of the president in action.

"It's been a long grueling day, five hours in line, and then I just barely got in," Siscoe said. "I'm going to head home before it gets dark and watch him in the comfort of my home."

Associated Press writers Noreen Gillespie in Charlotte, North Carolina, Ken Ritter in Las Vegas and Jim Anderson in Colorado Springs, Colorado, contributed to this report.

## UN chief: Gender inequality biggest human rights challenge

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Calling himself "a proud feminist," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres lashed out at men who abuse power and declared before Sunday's observances of International Women's Day that the fight for gender equality is "the biggest human rights challenge we face."

Twenty-five years after 189 countries adopted a 150-page road map for achieving equality for women, a new report by UN Women says the reality is that millions of women still face poverty, discrimination and violence. It notes over 70% of lawmakers and parliamentarians and managers are men and nearly 500,000 women and girls over the age of 15 are illiterate.

The U.N. Development Program's new Gender Social Norms Index also had some bad news for women. It found that close to 90% of both men and women hold some sort of bias against women.

According to the index, about half the world's men and women believe men make better political leaders and over 40% think men make better business executives and have greater rights to a job. Further, 28% feel it is justified for a husband to beat his wife.

Guterres told the U.N.'s International Women's Day observance Friday that "gender inequality is the overwhelming injustice of our day."

"Deep-rooted patriarchy and misogyny have created a yawning gender power gap in our economies, our

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political systems, our corporations, our societies and our culture," he said. "Women are still very frequently denied a voice; their opinions are ignored and their experience discounted."

The secretary-general cited examples in recent months, including high-profile peace agreements being signed with no women at the table and emergency health care meetings on the new coronavirus held with few or no women participating.

International Women's Day is taking place a day before the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women holds a drastically scaled down one-day event so delegations in New York can adopt a draft political declaration commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 1995 U.N. conference in Beijing that adopted the wide-ranging plan to achieve gender equality.

The commission had been expecting up to 12,000 people from its 193 member nations to be at its annual meeting. But it decided to postpone the major event until a later date because of the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The Beijing platform called for bold action in 12 areas for women and girls, including combating poverty and violence, ensuring all girls get an education, and having women at the top levels of business and government as well as at the table in peace negotiations.

It also said for the first time in a U.N. document that women's human rights include the right to control and decide "on matters relating to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of discrimination, coercion and violence."

The draft declaration expected to be adopted Monday reaffirms the Beijing platform for action and expresses concern "that overall, progress has not been fast or deep enough." It pledges to take "concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation" of the road map.

Olof Skoog, the European Union's top diplomat at the U.N., said the EU wasn't happy with the initial draft but "we played hardball, I think it's fair to say," to produce "the most detailed and action-oriented political declaration ever adopted" by the commission.

He said there are advances in some areas and the declaration avoids "backtracking on some of the issues where there was huge push back."

Among those issues was the definition of the family, with traditionalists insisting on a mother, father and children and progressive countries wanting to include LGBT families as well, he said. Another was on how to mention sexual and reproductive health and rights for women.

In the end, Skoog said, direct references to both issues were dropped in the declaration. But since the declaration affirms the Beijing platform, what that document says about the family and women's rights and health will stand.

Francoise Girard, president of the International Women's Health Coalition, said it was critical that governments recommit fully to the Beijing platform and called it heartening that they did so. She said governments also recommitted to achieving U.N. goals for 2030 that include sexual and reproductive rights for women, "so we feel that that is an extremely positive sign."

What could really change the trajectory to achieve gender equality, Girard said, is ensuring that young girls can control their bodies, and there is still a long way to go.

"Controlling your body — sexual and reproduction and free of violence — is critical to everything else," she told The Associated Press. "It's critical to education, to employment, to political participation, to sitting on boards of companies. All these things won't happen unless you control your body."

On Friday, Guterres urged young women to keep up activism, and "please hold the world to account."

"Twenty-five years after the Beijing conference, progress on women's rights has stalled and even reversed," he said. "We must push back against the push back. ... It is more important than ever for men to stand up for women's rights and gender equality."

## McCoy Tyner, iconic and influential jazz pianist, dies

By The Associated Press undefined

NEW YORK (AP) — McCoy Tyner, the groundbreaking and influential jazz pianist and the last surviving member of the John Coltrane Quartet, has died. He was 81.

Tyner's family confirmed the death in a statement released on social media Friday. No more details were provided.

"It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of jazz legend, Alfred "McCoy" Tyner. McCoy was an inspired musician who devoted his life to his art, his family and his spirituality," the statement read. "McCoy Tyner's music and legacy will continue to inspire fans and future talent for generations to come."

Tyner was born in Philadelphia on Dec. 11, 1938. He eventually met Coltrane and joined him for the 1961 album "My Favorite Things," a major commercial success that highlighted the remarkable chemistry of the John Coltrane Quartet. The album was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1998.

The quartet would go on to release more revered projects, becoming an international renowned group and one of the seminal acts in jazz history.

Tyner eventually found success apart from the John Coltrane Quartet, releasing more than 70 albums. He also won five Grammy Awards.

In 2002, he was named a Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts.

## Tear gas sprayed across migrants at Turkey-Greece border

By MSTYSLAV CHERNOV and SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

EDIRNE, Turkey (AP) — A group of migrants on Saturday tried to bring down a fence in a desperate attempt to bust through the border into Greece while others hurled rocks at Greek police. Greek authorities responded, firing volleys of tear gas at the youths.

At least two migrants were injured in the latest clash between Greek police and migrants gathered on the Turkish side of a border crossing near the Greek village of Kastanies. As in previous confrontations this week, officers in Greece fired tear gas to impede the crowd and Turkish police fired tear gas back at their Greek counterparts.

Groups of mostly young men tied ropes onto the fence in an attempt to tear it down. Some shouted "Allah is Great" while others shouted "open the border."

It was not immediately clear what caused the two migrants' injuries. A Greek government official said the tear gas and water cannons were used for "deterrence" purposes.

Thousands of migrants headed for Turkey's land border with Greece after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government said last week that it would no longer prevent migrants and refugees from crossing over to European Union territory. Greece deployed riot police and border guards to repel people trying to enter the country from the sea or by land.

Erdogan plans to be in Brussels on Monday for a one-day working visit. A statement from his office did not specify where he would be during his visit or the reason why he's heading to the EU's headquarters.

The announcement came hours after EU foreign ministers meeting in Croatia on Friday criticized Turkey, saying it was using the migrants' desperation "for political purposes."

In a statement Saturday, the Greek government said that around 600 people, aided by Turkish army and military police, threw tear gas at the Greek side of the border overnight. It also said there were several attempts to breach the border fence, and fires were lit in an attempt to damage the barrier.

"Attempts at illegal entry into Greek territory were prevented by Greek forces, which repaired the fence and used sirens and loudspeakers," the statement read.

Thousands of migrants have slept in makeshift camps near the border since the Turkish government said they were free to go, waiting for the opportunity to cut over to Greece.

"It is very difficult, but there is hope, God willing," said Mahmood Mohammed, 34, who identified himself as a refugee from Syria's embattled Idlib province.

Another man who identified himself as being from Idlib said he was camped out in western Turkey both

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to get away from the war at home and to make a new life for his family in Europe or Canada after crossing through the border gate.

Erdogan announced last week that Turkey, which already houses more than 3.5 million Syrian refugees, would no longer be Europe's gatekeeper and declared that its previously guarded borders with Europe are now open.

The move alarmed EU countries, which are still dealing with the political fallout from a wave of mass migration five years ago. Erdogan has demanded that Europe shoulder more of the burden of caring for refugees. But the EU insists it is abiding by a 2016 deal in which it gave Turkey billions in refugee aid in return for keeping Europe-bound asylum-seekers in Turkey.

In a phone call with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday, Erdogan said the Turkey-EU migration deal is no longer working and needs to be revised, according to the Turkish leaders's office.

While crediting Turkey for hosting millions of migrants and refugees, European foreign ministers said the bloc "strongly rejects Turkey's use of migratory pressure for political purposes." They called the situation at the border unacceptable and said the EU was determined to protect its external boundaries.

In Berlin on Saturday, about 1,000 people rallied in front of the Interior Ministry urging Germany to take in asylum seekers stuck at the Greek border. They then marched through the streets downtown behind a banner reading "Europe, don't kill. Open the borders, we have space."

From a slow-moving truck, one of the leaders led a chant in English: "No borders, no nations. Stop deportations."

Greek authorities said they thwarted more than 38,000 attempted border crossings in the past week and arrested 268 people — only 4% of them Syrians. They reported reported 27 more arrests Saturday, mostly migrants from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Greece has described the situation as a threat to its national security and has suspended asylum applications for a month, saying it will deport new arrivals without registering them. Many migrants have reported crossing into Greece, being beaten by Greek authorities and summarily forced back into Turkey.

A video handed out by the Turkish government on Saturday, purported to show a Greek soldier firing shots toward a barbed-wire fence at the border. The Associated Press was not in the area and could not verify its authenticity.

Turkish authorities say one migrant was killed earlier this week by bullets fired by Greek police or border guards near the border crossing. Greece denies the accusation. A child also drowned off the island of Lesbos when a boat carrying 48 migrants capsized.

On Saturday, Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu renewed accusations of Greek authorities mistreating migrants.

"Their masks have fallen," he said. "The ruthlessness of those who gave lectures on humanity has become evident."

Soylu claimed that some 1,000 Turkish special operations police deployed on the border had started to thwart the actions of the law enforcement teams assembled by Greece to drive the migrants back.

The minister also predicted that Greece would not be able to "hold on to its borders" when the river that delineates most of the Turkey-Greece border gets shallower and easier to cross.

Soylu has said Erdogan instructed Turkish authorities to prevent migrants from attempting to reach the Greek islands in dinghies to avoid "human tragedies." Hundreds have drowned attempting the comparatively short but dangerous voyage from Turkey's coast.

Fraser reported from Ankara, Turkey. Associated Press reporters Costas Kantouris in Kastanies, Greece, Demetris Nellas in Athens and David Rising in Berlin contributed.

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## Now this: Tornado clobbers African American North Nashville

By TRAVIS LOLLER Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — On a frigid Friday morning in North Nashville, Ishvicka Howell stood in her driveway and peered down the street at several utility trucks.

"When I saw those blinking lights, it was like Christmas," she said.

Howell has been without electricity since a tornado tore through her neighborhood shortly after midnight on Tuesday.

"No power. No heat. We pioneering it," Howell said. "Grilling it and boiling water on the grill. We're in survival mode."

The tornado that struck Nashville wrecked several neighborhoods as it hopped across the city, smashing in trendy Germantown and Five Points, where two people died.

But North Nashville's historically African American neighborhoods were already suffering from decades of redlining and neglect, isolated from more affluent neighborhoods by the interstates that cut through the heart of the city. More recently, they have begun to feel the pressure of gentrification as new residents and short-term renters search out affordable areas near downtown.

And now this. The killer storm devastated whole blocks, tearing off roofs, blowing down walls, uprooting huge trees and toppling electrical poles. While many parts of North Nashville had little storm damage, most residents were still without electricity Friday. No lights. No heat. And no way to store or cook food.

Some are wondering if North Nashville can recover from this latest hit or if its African American families will be permanently displaced.

"We are worried because we know developers are going to come in," said Cornelius A. Hill, pastor of Ephesian Primitive Baptist Church.

But Hill said he was encouraged by the outpouring of aid. His church, too, is without power. But outside in the parking lot, donations of all sorts have been pouring in to be donated to grateful residents. It was a scene repeated on nearly every corner of the storm-damaged blocks on Friday. Volunteers manned folding tables with free water, batteries, diapers, trash bags, and hot food like barbecue, hot dogs and pizza.

Meanwhile, hundreds of volunteers toting rakes and chainsaws were taking advantage of the daylight. They covered roofs with tarps, sliced away at downed and damaged trees, and piled debris at curbside for public works trucks to cart away.

"This is a historic part of Nashville. Some of these homes have been here 40 or 50 years," said Jonathan Williamson with the community group Friends and Fam. "It's beautiful to see everyone come out and work together to get things fixed."

North Nashville is home to several historically black colleges and universities. Fisk University and Meharry Medical College were largely unscathed from the storm. But Tennessee State University suffered the near total destruction of its agricultural research center. The loss is estimated at between \$30 and \$50 million.

College of Agriculture Dean Chandra Reddy said the school has never been funded on par with the University of Tennessee. It's only in the past few years that the state government has started matching federal funding, and the school has been working hard to build up the program.

"This tornado is a double whammy for us. We were barely putting something up there, and then this comes and wipes it out," said Reddy.

Reddy said he is encouraged that Gov. Bill Lee, who supports rural development, visited Tuesday morning. He is hoping the state government will come through to help the program quickly rebuild and grow.

"If we want to produce top-class research, we need good facilities and good faculty," Reddy said. "Those don't come cheap."

Over at the corner of 16th Ave. North and Knowles Street, one of the most heavily damaged residential blocks, new city councilman Brandon Taylor stopped to talk with Robert Sherrill of the nonprofit Impact Youth Outreach. Taylor said city leaders already are discussing ways to help residents rebuild.

"We're trying to build a plan to make sure the community comes out of this whole," he said.

Sherrill grew up on 16th Ave. North and has already seen how much it has changed through gentrifica-

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tion. He worries that any help won't come soon enough.

"We know there are people already knocking on doors," he said. "If they say they're going to put you up in the Omni for a week and give you \$100,000 cash, and you're staying in a house with no walls, you might accept that."

Paige Jack, with the group Friends and Fam, was handing out food nearby and was more optimistic. She thinks the volunteers from other parts of the city and beyond will leave feeling more connected to North Nashville.

"It's made people much more appreciative of our community," she said.

The National Weather Service has said at least six tornadoes hit middle Tennessee during the series of storms that killed 24 people and caused massive damage. Eighteen were killed in Putnam County, where President Donald Trump visited on Friday to offer his condolences. Trump flew in and out of Nashville but did not stop in the city.

## First lady pushes back against critics of her tennis tweet

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Melania Trump pushed back Saturday after photos she tweeted of herself overseeing a White House construction project generated an online backlash.

"I encourage everyone who chooses to be negative & question my work at the @WhiteHouse to take time and contribute something good & productive in their own communities," the first lady said in a new tweet. She included a hashtag for Be Best, her program to teach children to be civil online.

On Thursday, the first lady tweeted a series of pics, including two of herself wearing a hard hat while reviewing blueprints for the construction of a tennis pavilion on the south grounds.

Critics lashed out, with some saying the photos were insensitive during the global coronavirus scare. Others referenced President Donald Trump's immigration policies in their comments.

The first lady helped break ground for the pavilion in October. The White House has said no public funds will be used for the project.

## As virus outbreaks multiply, UN declines to declare pandemic

By MARIA CHENG AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — As cases of the coronavirus surge in Italy, Iran, South Korea, the U.S. and elsewhere, many scientists say it's plain that the world is in the grips of a pandemic — a serious global outbreak.

The World Health Organization has so far resisted describing the crisis as such, saying the word "pandemic" might spook the world further and lead some countries to lose hope of containing the virus.

"Unless we're convinced it's uncontrollable, why (would) we call it a pandemic?" WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said this week.

The U.N. health agency has previously described a pandemic as a situation in which a new virus is causing "sustained community-level outbreaks" in at least two world regions.

Many experts say that threshold has long been met: The virus that was first identified in China is now spreading freely in four regions, it has reached every continent but Antarctica, and its advance seems unavoidable. The disease has managed to gain a foothold and multiply quickly even in countries with relatively strong public health systems.

On Friday, the virus hit a new milestone, infecting more than 100,000 people worldwide, far more than those sickened by SARS, MERS or Ebola in recent years.

"I think it's pretty clear we're in a pandemic and I don't know why WHO is resisting that," said Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota.

Experts acknowledge that declaring a pandemic is politically fraught because it can rattle markets, lead to more drastic travel and trade restrictions and stigmatize people coming from affected regions. WHO was previously criticized for labeling the 2009 swine flu outbreak a pandemic. But experts said calling this

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crisis a pandemic could also spur countries to prepare for the virus's eventual arrival.

WHO already declared the virus a "global health emergency" in late January, putting countries and humanitarian organizations on notice and issuing a broad set of recommendations to curb its spread.

Even in countries that moved quickly to shut down their links to China, COVID-19 has managed to sneak in. Within a matter of weeks, officials in Italy, Iran and South Korea went from reporting single new cases to hundreds.

"We were the first country to stop flights to China and we were completely surprised by this disease," said Massimo Galli, an infectious-diseases professor at the University of Milan. "It's dangerous for the entire world that the virus is able to spread underground like this."

With more than 3,800 cases, Italy is the epicenter of Europe's outbreak and has shut down schools, closed sports stadiums to fans and urged the elderly not to go outside unless absolutely necessary. But it has still exported cases of the virus to at least 10 countries, including Austria, the Czech Republic, Spain, South Africa and Nigeria.

Devi Sridhar, a professor of global public health at the University of Edinburgh who co-chaired a review of WHO's response to the 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, said a pandemic declaration is long overdue.

"This outbreak meets all the definitions for a pandemic that we had pre-coronavirus," she said.

At a news conference last month, Dr. Mike Ryan, WHO's emergencies chief, said a pandemic is "a unique situation in which we believe that all citizens on the planet" will likely be exposed to a virus "within a defined period of time."

Several experts said they hadn't heard that definition. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for its part, defines a pandemic as "an epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents, usually affecting a large number of people."

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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.

## Nursing home showed few signs it prepared for virus outbreak

By **BERNARD CONDON** and **CARLA K. JOHNSON** Associated Press

KIRKLAND, Wash. (AP) — In the days before the Life Care Center nursing home became ground zero for coronavirus deaths in the U.S., there were few signs it was girding against an illness spreading rapidly around the world.

Visitors came in as they always did, sometimes without signing in. Staffers had only recently begun wearing face masks, but the frail residents and those who came to see them were not asked to do so. And organized events went on as planned, including a purple- and gold-festooned Mardi Gras party last week, where dozens of residents and visitors packed into a common room, passed plates of sausage, rice and king cake, and sang as a Dixieland band played "When the Saints Go Marching In."

"We were all eating, drinking, singing and clapping to the music," said Pat McCauley, who was there visiting a friend. "In hindsight, it was a real germ-fest."

That was just three days before last Saturday's announcement that a Life Care health care worker in her 40s and a resident in her 70s had been diagnosed with the new virus. The news would be followed over the next few days by the first resident deaths: two men in their 70s, a woman in her 70s and a woman in her 80s.

Of the 16 deaths across the nation as of Saturday, at least 10 have been linked to the Seattle-area nursing home, along with dozens of other infections among residents, staff and family members.

A man in his 60s who died Thursday had been a visitor to the nursing home in Kirkland, public health officials announced late Friday.

As disease detectives try to solve the mystery of how exactly the coronavirus got inside Life Care, they also are questioning whether the 190-bed home that had been fined before over its handling of infections was as vigilant as it could have been in protecting its vulnerable patients against an outbreak that had



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already killed thousands in China and around the world.

A team of federal and state regulators planned to visit Life Care on Saturday, a move that could lead to sanctions, including a possible takeover of its management. The team will look at the home's practices, including infection control.

In an outbreak like this, "it's not business as usual, so business as usual is not going to be OK," said Dr. Mark Dworkin, an epidemiologist at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. "There needs to be some sort of mobilization within the facility for enhanced adherence to procedures. Infection control and visitors logging in. These things need to be translated out across the country."

Life Care did not respond to questions from The Associated Press that were sent to an email address set up for news media inquiries. In the week since the outbreak began, the center has issued statements saying it grieves with the families who have lost loved ones. It also has noted that visits have been halted, staffers are being screened and residents with any kind of respiratory illness have been placed in isolation.

Several family members and friends who visited residents at Life Care over the past few weeks told the AP that they didn't notice any unusual precautions, and none said they were asked about their health or if they had visited China or any other countries struck by the virus.

Pat and Bob McCauley, who visited a friend eight times in two weeks before the outbreak, said they noticed some staff members wearing face masks during a visit on Feb. 26 that included the Mardi Gras party but didn't think much of it. They went to a common room with a half-dozen tables and began singing along with their friend as residents in wheelchairs bunched together to get clear view of the banjo, bass and washboard players.

"As it became more crowded, we helped move patients into seats, move wheelchairs into places between tables, holding doors, adjusting tables and chairs to accommodate wheelchairs," Pat McCauley said. "We had very close contact with numerous patients."

Two days later, when the couple arrived for another visit, they realized the reason for the masks. A staff member told them at the door that they would have to wear ones themselves because a "respiratory virus" had spread.

They turned around and went home.

Lori Spencer, whose 81-year-old mother is at Life Care, said she also noticed the masks on a visit that same Wednesday and how packed the place was.

"The hallways were crowded with people. The place was buzzing," she said. "All the doors to the rooms were open, and I could see there were multiple people in there. I kept thinking how people were on top of each other."

Spencer said that firefighters had just visited the place, too, and there were student nurses as well.

A union representative for the Kirkland firefighters said Thursday that all firefighters tested so far have come back negative for the coronavirus, but they want more testing.

"We're cooking together and eating together," Evan Hurley said. "Trying to actually trace this all back to who's been exposed is difficult."

Betsy McCaughey, chairwoman of the nonprofit Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths, said that by the day the Mardi Gras party was held, the nursing home should have been doing more to protect its residents.

"All these nursing facilities hold parties," she said. "The issue is: Were attendees asked ahead of time, 'How are you feeling? ... Have you traveled to one of the coronavirus hot spots? Has someone in your family traveled to a hot spot? Is there any illness in your family?'"

McCaughey estimates 380,000 nursing homes residents die each year of infections, about half of them preventable. She said federal regulators are largely to blame for not holding nursing homes to the same standards as hospitals. While residents of nursing homes may need more social interaction than hospital patients, "they shouldn't have to sacrifice their lives for it," she said.

Exactly how the virus made its way into the nursing home remains a mystery. One theory is that someone who became infected overseas brought it to Washington state and passed it on to others. Ordinarily in nursing homes, bedridden patients have the virus brought to them by visitors or staff members who

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are sick.

While Life Care generally has a good rating with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, state inspectors last April found infection-control deficiencies following two flu outbreaks that affected 17 residents and staff. Life Care was fined \$67,000. A follow-up inspection found that it had corrected the problems.

As of Friday, 69 residents remained at Life Care after 15 were taken to the hospital within the past 24 hours. King County Executive Dow Constantine said the state has offered to help families set up home care if they want to move their loved ones out.

Dr. Stephen C. Morris, a University of Washington School of Medicine public health specialist who was sent into the nursing home to evaluate patients Thursday, said that in the midst of this crisis, the staff there needed help.

"They need nurses who are better trained. They need doctors who are better trained," he said.

Family members said that since the nursing home has been locked down, they have agonized over leaving their loved ones inside and have resorted to communicating with them by tablet computers, cellphones and signs held up at the windows.

Patricia Herrick, whose 89-year-old mother died Thursday, said it was difficult to know that her mother was caught in the epicenter of the outbreak, in a room so nearby but completely inaccessible.

"Knowing that she was in an environment that is dangerous and not being able to help ... it was awful," she said. She said she wants her mother tested to see if she died of the virus.

Herrick said she noticed some staffers were wearing masks three days before the Mardi Gras party visit, but she didn't think much of it. She also said she walked right in that day without signing the visitors log. But she thinks the problem lies not with the staff of Life Care but with government health officials.

"Even at the state level, the department of health should have dictated what these facilities should do: No parties. Anyone with respiratory problems goes into isolation," Herrick said.

"This is a wake-up call. There are holes in our system."

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Condon reported from New York. AP photographer Ted Warren in Kirkland 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.

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

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, March 8, the 68th day of 2020. There are 298 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 8, 1979, technology firm Philips demonstrated a prototype compact disc player during a press conference in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

On this date:

In 1618, German astronomer Johannes Kepler devised his third law of planetary motion.

In 1702, England's Queen Anne acceded to the throne upon the death of King William III.

In 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclad CSS Virginia rammed and sank the USS Cumberland and heavily damaged the USS Congress, both frigates, off Newport News, Virginia.

In 1948, the Supreme Court, in *McCollum v. Board of Education*, struck down voluntary religious education classes in Champaign, Illinois, public schools, saying the program violated separation of church and state.

In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon won the New Hampshire presi-

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dential primary.

In 1965, the United States landed its first combat troops in South Vietnam as 3,500 Marines arrived to defend the U.S. air base at Da Nang.

In 1983, in a speech to the National Association of Evangelicals convention in Orlando, Florida, President Ronald Reagan referred to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire."

In 1988, 17 soldiers were killed when two Army helicopters from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, collided in mid-flight.

In 1999, baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio died in Hollywood, Florida, at age 84.

In 2000, President Bill Clinton submitted to Congress legislation to establish permanent normal trade relations with China. (The U.S. and China signed a trade pact in November 2000.)

In 2008, President George W. Bush vetoed a bill that would have banned the CIA from using simulated drowning and other coercive interrogation methods to gain information from suspected terrorists.

In 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, a Boeing 777 with 239 people on board, vanished during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, setting off a massive search. (To date, the fate of the jetliner and its occupants has yet to be determined.)

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama made a spirited, shirt-sleeved appeal for passage of health care legislation during a visit to Arcadia University in Pennsylvania. A magnitude 6 earthquake struck eastern Turkey, killing at least 41 people.

Five years ago: Thousands of people crowded the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama, many jammed shoulder to shoulder, to commemorate a bloody confrontation 50 years earlier between police and peaceful protesters that helped bring about the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Sam Simon, 59, a co-creator of "The Simpsons" and an animal-rights advocate, died in Pacific Palisades, California.

One year ago: Maryland's highest court denied a new trial for Adnan Syed, whose murder conviction was chronicled in the hit podcast "Serial." (The court agreed with a lower court that Syed's legal counsel was deficient in failing to investigate an alibi witness, but it disagreed that the deficiency prejudiced the case.) Former Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning, who had served years in prison for leaking classified documents, was sent to jail for up to 18 months for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating WikiLeaks. (Manning remains behind bars, vowing not to cooperate in the investigation.) A grand jury in Chicago indicted "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett on 16 felony counts related to making a false report that he was attacked by two men who shouted racial and homophobic slurs. (Prosecutors dropped the case in March, but a grand jury revived it in February 2020, indicting Smollett on charges of lying to police about the alleged attack.)

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician George Coleman is 85. Actress Sue Ane (correct) Langdon is 84. College Football Hall of Famer Pete Dawkins is 82. Songwriter Carole Bayer Sager is 76. Actor-director Micky Dolenz (The Monkees) is 75. Singer-musician Randy Meisner is 74. Pop singer Peggy March is 72. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Rice is 67. Jazz musician Billy Childs is 63. Singer Gary Numan is 62. NBC News anchor Lester Holt is 61. Actor Aidan Quinn is 61. Country musician Jimmy Dormire is 60. Actress Camryn Manheim is 59. Actor Leon (no last name) is 59. Country-rock singer Shawn Mullins is 52. Neo-soul singer Van Hunt is 50. Actress Andrea Parker is 50. Actor Boris Kodjoe is 47. Actor Freddie Prinze Jr. is 44. Actress Laura Main is 43. Actor James Van Der Beek is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kameelah Williams (702) is 42. Actor Nick Zano is 42. Rock singer Tom Chaplin (Keane) is 41. Rock musician Andy Ross (OK Go) is 41. Actress Jessica Collins is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kristinia (kris-teh-NEE'-ah) DeBarge is 30.

Thought for Today: "The intelligent man who is proud of his intelligence is like the condemned man who is proud of his large cell." — Simone Weil, French philosopher (1909-1943).

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